



**THE TUDOR 007** ELIZABETH I'S FORGOTTEN SPY

# HISTORY

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ISSUE 44 // JULY 2017 // £4.99

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# Power to the people



An estimated **107 billion people have ever lived**, and yet only a very few are recognisable by a single name – Plato, Cleopatra, Michelangelo, Pelé, Napoleon. These are **people who have truly made history**. It says much about our cover star that his

own arch-rival, the Duke of Wellington, said that **the Emperor of France was worth 40,000 men**. Few men, after all, could rise from humble beginnings to conquer much of Europe; even fewer could escape from exile and do it all over again. His remarkable **rise and fall (and rise and fall)** begins on page 24.

History is **packed with big names**, of course, but none of them exist outside the context of their times. So this issue, we set our sights on some scintillating societies. We travel to Sparta (p34), that brutal Ancient Greek city-state, to **reveal the ruthless regime** that made it such a power. And **we celebrate Jane Austen's 200th anniversary** (p43) by looking at the world her books reflect, where marriage and manners could be everything. We also visit the Wild

Napoleon surveys the scene of one of his great victories – but could it last?



West (p70), and learn that there was **more to the frontier than heroes and villains**, and look back to the early years of **Northern Ireland's Troubles** (p50).

Please do **write in and let us know** what you've thought about the issue, or to tell us **what people and places you'd like to read about** in future. Enjoy the issue!

*Paul*

Paul McGuinness  
Editor

**Don't miss our August issue, on sale 20 July**

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## ON THE COVER

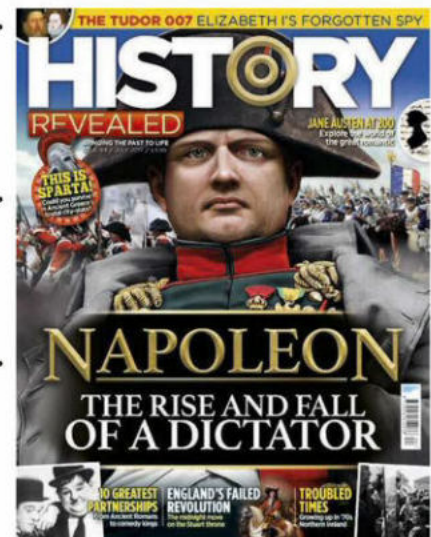
Your key to the big stories...

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## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**129**

Officers and men lost without trace on John Franklin's Arctic expedition. See page 56.

**007**

Tudor spy and magician John Dee signed his letters to Elizabeth I '007'; the double-0 meaning 'for your eyes only', and the 7 being Dee's lucky number. See page 16.

**107**

The number of movies that legendary comic actors Laurel and Hardy appeared in together. See page 62.



# 24 NAPOLEON: LIFE OF A DICTATOR

Inside his fall from  
emperor to exile



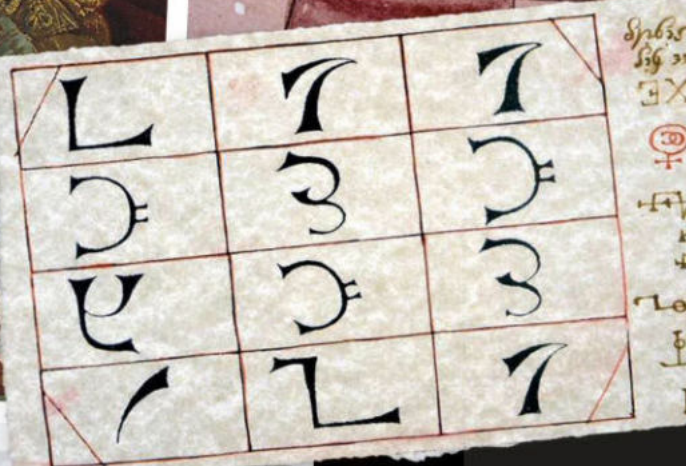
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Castro's failed  
revolution



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Castle's dark  
past



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forgotten spy

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How the West  
Country rose up  
against James II



# JULY 2017

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# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY







SNAPSHOT

1937

# HOLD THE RING

During a routine drill, a fireman in Lambeth casually steps off a high roof as his colleagues wait below, holding a trampoline-like device to break his fall. The 'jumping sheet' was intended to save the lives of people trapped in burning buildings up to six stories high. However, in reality they often did the opposite. At a hotel fire in Amsterdam in 1977, some guests threw their luggage onto the sheet before jumping, while others hit the rim, resulting in a number of casualties. They were phased out in the 1980s.



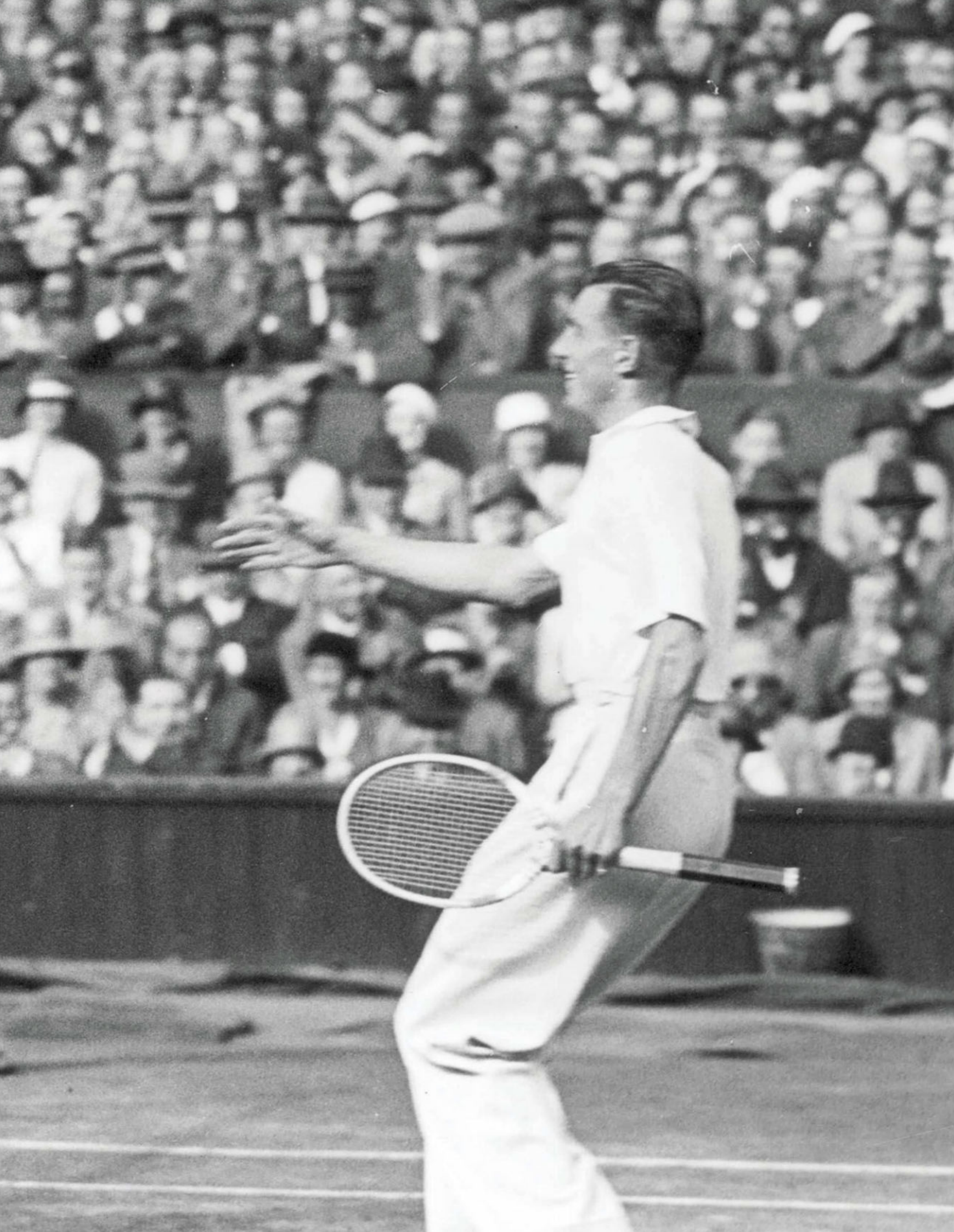


**SNAPSHOT**

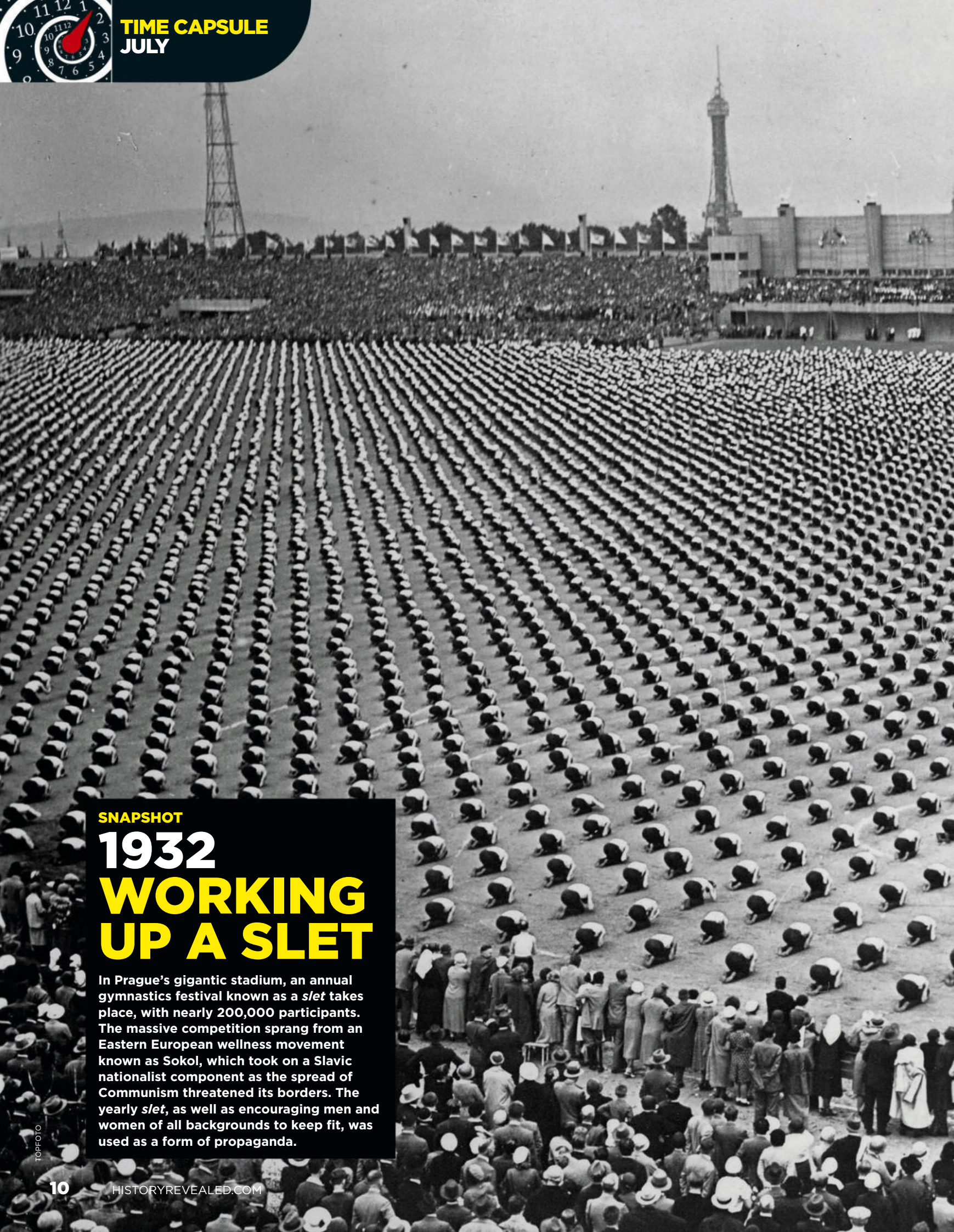
# 1935 OLD SPORT

The winner of the 1935 Wimbledon men's singles contest, Fred Perry, leaps over the net to shake hands with his rival, Gottfried von Cramm. With northern, working-class roots, the Englishman was initially cold-shouldered by the tennis establishment, at a time when the sport was still dominated by the public-school-educated middle classes. He proved his doubters wrong by winning three consecutive Wimbledon Championships from 1934-36.







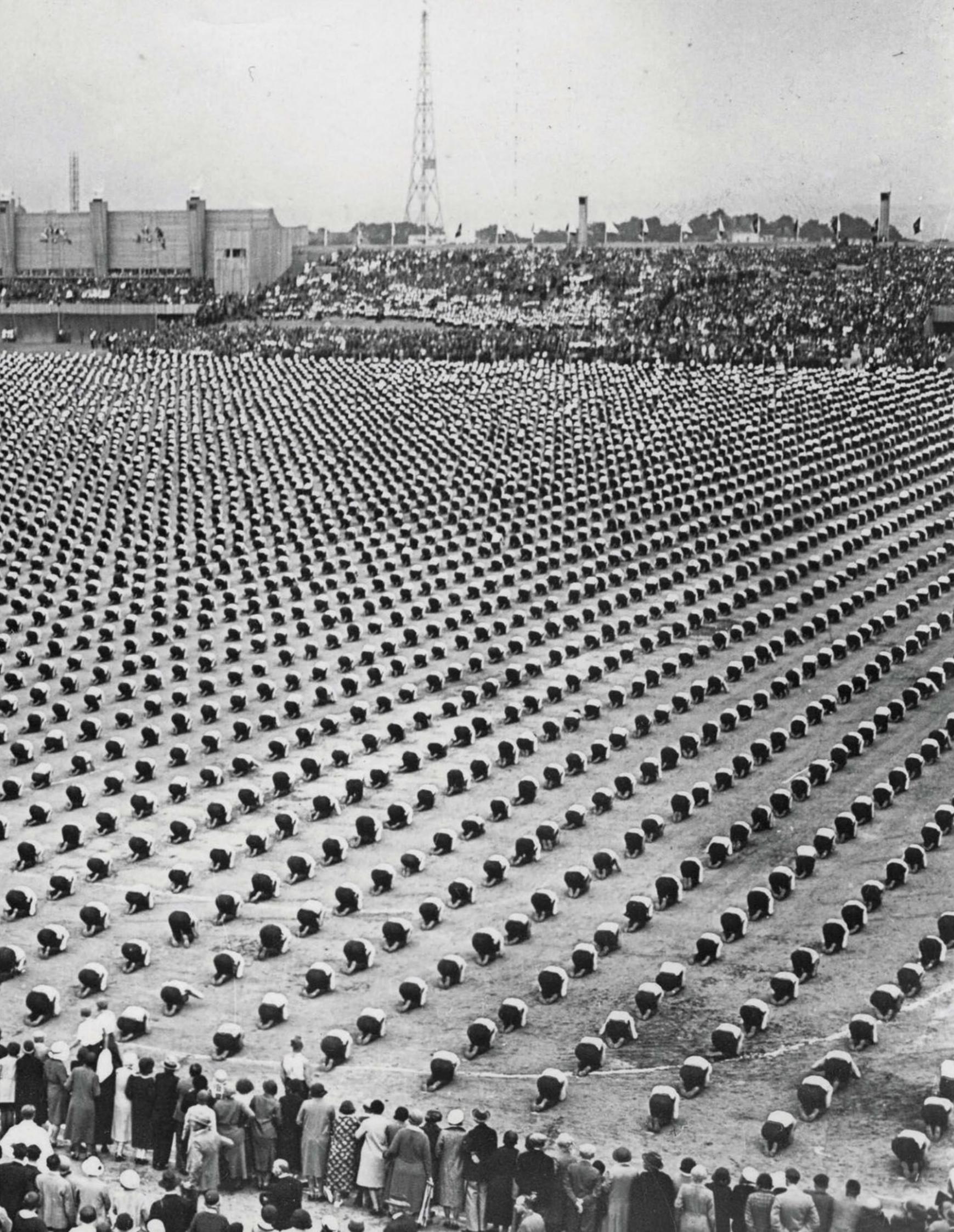


SNAPSHOT

# 1932 WORKING UP A SLET

In Prague's gigantic stadium, an annual gymnastics festival known as a *slet* takes place, with nearly 200,000 participants. The massive competition sprang from an Eastern European wellness movement known as Sokol, which took on a Slavic nationalist component as the spread of Communism threatened its borders. The yearly *slet*, as well as encouraging men and women of all backgrounds to keep fit, was used as a form of propaganda.









## "I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **July**

### THE CRAB NEBULA

At its heart lies a neutron star 19km in diameter, but with the **mass of our Sun**.

### SHANGHAI SUPERNOVA

#### 1054 GUEST STAR SPOTTED

Chinese astronomers noted the sudden appearance of a super bright 'guest' star. Shining six times as brightly as Venus, it was visible to the naked eye for almost two years. Modern astronomers have identified the sighting as **a supernova**, a star's explosive death. Its remnants now form the **Crab Nebula**.

### FASHION FIRST

#### 1853 BLOOMER GIVES A SPEECH IN TROUSERS

Rejecting the tight-fitting corsets of the day, women's rights advocate Amelia Bloomer began wearing loose blouses, knee-length skirts and **baggy trousers**. Though she didn't create the style, they came to be known as '**bloomers**' by association.



### GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER

#### 1976 THE FIRST APPLE PC GOES ON SALE

Steve Wozniak built his first computer in 1976 - a friend, Steve Jobs, immediately saw **business potential**. Jobs knew someone at a local computer store and pitched it to them. Although intended to sell as a kit, the store wanted 50 fully assembled units. Each PC cost around \$250 to put together - the dynamic duo decided on a \$500 wholesale price. The retail price was \$666.66. In 2014, a working Apple 1 **sold for \$905,000 at auction** in New York.

### DON'T SAY A WORD

#### 1925 MEHER BABA BEGINS 44 YEARS OF SILENCE

From 1925 until his death, the Indian spiritual master Meher Baba, claiming to be **God in human form**, was silent. Using gestures or an alphabet board, Baba suggested he would break silence only to trigger a defining event in **mankind's spiritual evolution**.





## ARSENIC AND OLD LACE 1675 AFFAIR OF THE POISONS ROCKS FRANCE

After aristocrat Madame de Brinvilliers was found guilty of **poisoning her father and brothers** in order to inherit their estate, hysteria swept France that many more mysterious deaths had been a result of poisoning. Fortune-tellers and alchemists accused of selling 'inheritance powders' were rounded up and the *Chambre Ardente* ('burning court') was re-established to **judge cases of poisoning and witchcraft**. In total, 36 people were executed during the Affair.



## FRENCH TOAST 1690 FRENCH BURN DOWN TEIGNMOUTH

Though many believe 1066 to be the last time that the French invaded England, there was in fact a far more recent **hit-and-run attack**. After defeating an Anglo-Dutch fleet at the Battle of Beachy Head, 1,000 Frenchmen sailed up the coast to the port of Teignmouth and proceeded to **set fire to and plunder the town**, before quickly returning to their ships and sailing away.



## "...OH BOY" July events that changed the world

### 21 JULY AD 365 THE EARTH MOVES

An earthquake in Crete causes a Mediterranean tsunami, allegedly destroying Alexandria, a city founded in 332 BC by Alexander the Great.

### 15 JULY 1381 REVOLTING PEASANT

Peasants' Revolt leader John Ball is hanged, drawn and quartered in the presence of King Richard II.

### 7 JULY 1520 CONQUISTADOR CONQUERS

Hernán Cortés and the Tlaxcalans defeat a numerically superior Aztec force in the Battle of Otumba, Mexico.

### 11 JULY 1900 SMASHED IT

Charlotte Cooper of England beats Hélène Prévost of France to become the first female Olympic tennis champion (the first individual female Olympic champion in any sport).

### 1 JULY 1908 SAVE OUR SOULS

Morse code prosign 'SOS' becomes the universal distress signal. The letters are deemed easiest to transmit in an emergency.

### 30 JULY 1935 LIGHT READS

The first Penguin book is published, starting the paperback revolution.

### 26 JULY 1945 HANDS UP

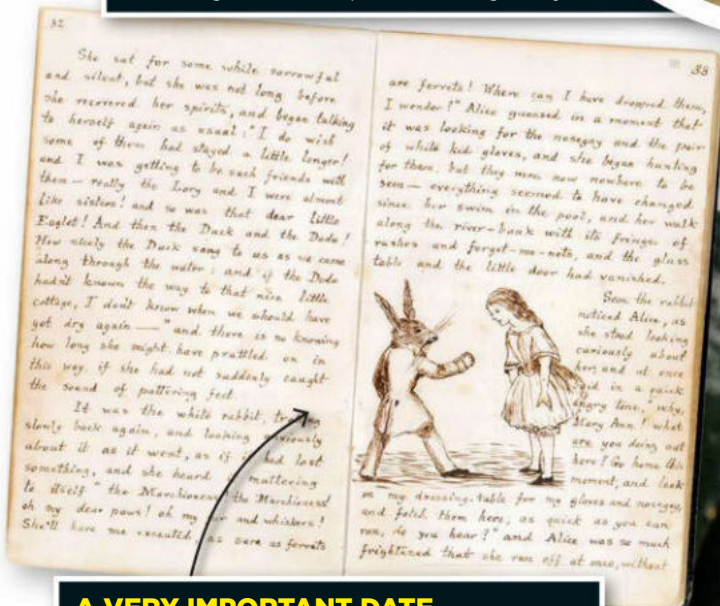
The Allies demand the Japanese surrender during WWII in the Potsdam Declaration.

## AND FINALLY...

Former presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, once fellow patriots and later political adversaries, **died on Independence Day** 1826. Both revolutionaries are considered to be Founding Fathers of the United States.

## A VERY IMPORTANT DATE 1862 WONDERLAND SPRINGS TO LIFE

Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), took tea with three sisters – Edith (eight), Alice (ten), and Lorina (13) on 4 July. He spun tales of a whimsical world with curious characters. **Alice asked him to write it down** – and it became *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.







THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1945



# Evening Standard

37,700

24-HOUR FORECAST:  
Thundery rain; cooler.

MOON: Rises 10.12 p.m. Sets 7.44 a.m. T-mor.  
LIGHTING-UP TIME: 9.58 p.m.

ONE PENNY

FINAL NIGHT EXTRA



Britain swings to the Left—and the Churchill  
Government goes out in a landslide

## SOCIALISTS IN 26 Ministers go down LONDON, BIRMINGHAM CAPTURED: LIBERALS ECLIPSED

Britain has elected a Socialist Government. At 1.30 this afternoon the Conservative Party Central Office officially conceded the election to the Socialists.

Three hours after the first General Election result was announced the Socialist lead was so commanding that there was no longer any doubt, and by half-past one they had won half the total number of seats, with 170 to come.

From the start the strong swing towards Socialism was clear. Minister after Minister fell—all three Service Ministers among them. So far 26 Ministers of the Caretaker Government have been defeated, five of them in the Cabinet.

The Socialists had five gains in the first half-hour. After an hour and three-quarters they had gained 55 seats and lost only two. By 12.30 their gains were 88 and losses two; Government gains were one, losses 82.

### MINISTERS DEFEATED

The following Ministers have been defeated:

#### In the Cabinet

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Secretary for Air.  
Mr. Brendan Bracken, First Lord of the Admiralty.  
Sir James Grigg, War Minister.  
Mr. L. Amery, Secretary for India.  
Sir D. Somervell, Home Secretary.

#### Not in Cabinet

Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Aircraft Production.  
Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Works.  
Mr. G. S. Summers, Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Overseas Trade.  
Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions.  
Mr. Hore-Belisha, Minister of National Insurance.  
Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, Minister of Information.  
Mr. Robert Cary, Lord of the Treasury and Government Whip.  
Mr. R. Law, Minister of Education.  
Mrs. Cazalet Keir, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Education.  
Mr. W. Mabane, Minister of State.  
Mr. M. S. McCordale, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour.  
Mr. C. U. Feal, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Insurance.  
Capt. R. A. Pilkington, Civil Lord of the Admiralty.  
Mr. R. D. Scott, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.  
Sir Austen Hudson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Fuel and Power.  
Captain Charles Waterhouse, Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade.  
Mr. P. Emrys Evans, Parliamentary Secretary for the Dominions.  
Major Peter Thorneycroft, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of War Transport.  
Lord Dunglass, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office.  
Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Food.  
Major Anstruther Gray, Assistant Postmaster-General.

These were the big casualties: Mr. Brendan Bracken (Admiralty), Sir James Grigg (War), Mr. Harold Macmillan (Air), Mr. L. S. Amery (India), Sir Walter Womersley (Pensions), Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd (Information), Mr. Hore-Belisha (Insurance), Mr. Ernest Brown (Aircraft Production), Mr. G. S. Summers (Parliamentary Secretary, Overseas Trade), Mr. Robert Cary, Mr. Duncan Sandys (Works), Mr. Richard Law (Minister of Education) and his deputy, Mrs. Cazalet Keir, Mr. W. Mabane (Minister of State).

The Sinclair Liberals were massacred. At 1.40 they had only seven seats. Communists and Common Wealth had one each.

There was no doubt, of course, about Mr. Churchill; but his Independent opponent, the farmer Mr. A. Hancock, had an unexpectedly big return. He polled 10,488 against the Prime Minister's 27,688.

### MR. EDEN'S BIG MAJORITY

Mr. Eden had a majority of over 17,000 at Warwick and Leamington, and Mr. Hudson (Agriculture) was another of the old Ministers who come back.

Already there are two by-elections pending. Sir Edward Campbell (C.) was top of the poll at Bromley, and Mr. L. R. Pym (C.) at Monmouth. Both have died since the poll.

Closest contest so far was in Rusholme (Manchester). After a recount, H. L. Hutchinson (Soc.) was returned with only ten votes to spare. A recount was also made in North Leeds, where, on the first count, the retiring member, Mr. Osbert Peake, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, had a majority of 129. After the second count his majority was one less.

### BEVIN AND MORRISON IN

The two Socialist leaders about whom their party were most anxious, Mr. Morrison (majority 15,000) and Mr. Bevin, are both safe; so are Mr. Attlee and Mr. Greenwood; Sir Stafford Cripps made very sure of things in East Bristol, his majority being nearly 18,000. Miss Ellen Wilkinson had an 11,000 majority.

Of the new divisions so far declared the Socialists secured five and Conservatives four.

Mr. Ralph Ascheton, chairman of the Conservative Party, was defeated by a woman Socialist in Rushcliffe. He was the man at the head of the Election machine, and was responsible for organising the Conservative campaign. The Party's vice-chairman, Colonel Harold Mitchell, was also beaten.

Counting began at 9 a.m. In less than an hour came the first result—a Socialist gain at South Salford, which was the first to finish its count in the only previous election with a delayed count, in 1918. Labour also gained North Salford.

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Secretary of State for Air, was the first Minister defeated. He had been at the Air Ministry since the break-up of the Coalition;

© Back Page, Col. One

### STATE OF PARTIES

FOR THE GOVERNMENT - 178  
OTHER PARTIES - 361  
SEATS TO BE DECLARED - 101

For the Government  
Conservative ..... 166  
National ..... 1  
Liberal National ..... 11  
Independent ..... 0

Other Parties  
Socialist ..... 339  
Liberal ..... 10  
ILP ..... 3  
Communist ..... 1  
Independent and others... 7  
Scottish Nationalist ..... 0  
Welsh Nationalist ..... 0  
Irish Nationalist ..... 0  
Common Wealth ..... 1

### NEW PRIME MINISTER

### The next step

Evening Standard Political  
Correspondent

With the Socialists returned in a majority, Mr. Churchill has to decide on his next action. He is still the Prime Minister until a new Government is formed. Mr. Churchill is expected to summon a Cabinet meeting at the earliest possible moment. With his Ministers—quite as well as the new Ministers—he will discuss the situation. The main point to be decided is whether to resign at once or to meet Parliament and there be defeated on a vote of no confidence.

#### VISIT TO PALACE

The expectation is that Mr. Churchill will resign before Parliament reassembles. In that case he will go to Buckingham Palace, perhaps to-morrow. If the King accepts his resignation he will send for Mr. Attlee and invite him to form a Government—the third Socialist administration in British history.

Mr. Attlee will endeavour to pick his team in time to meet Parliament on the date already fixed.

If he follows the precedent of Ramsay MacDonald he will consult a number of his leading colleagues. The Cabinet makers would probably include Mr. Morrison, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Dalton and Sir Stafford Cripps. The new Prime Minister would then have to prepare the King's Speech in which the Government's legislative policy would be outlined.

Another point which arises is the future representation at the Big Three Conference in Potsdam. Mr. Attlee, as Prime Minister, will attend. He will probably invite Mr. Churchill to accompany him.



Mr. Clement Attlee, leader of the Socialist Party, who will be the new Prime Minister, smiling after his victory in his own constituency at Limehouse.

## The Socialists win London

Evening Standard Reporter

The Socialists won London. The 23 seats which were held by the Government, making a total of 48 seats possible 62.

The Conservatives won only 12 seats, of the City of London.

### The Wiltshire anthem

Major John Morrison, Master of the South and West Wiltshire Foxhounds, who retained his seat as Conservative at Salisbury, went on to the balcony of the White Hart Hotel after the declaration of the poll and sang the Wiltshire national anthem, "The Vixen on the Turnout."

The crowd joined in the chorus.

The Socialist Party, one of the London boroughs, and a Communist in the Mile End division of Stepney and the other to an Independent in Hammersmith North.

The 23 seats gained from the Conservatives by the Socialists are:

Battersea South, Bethnal Green S.W., Camberwell (Dalwich), Camberwell N.W., Fulham East, Greenwich, Hackney North, Ham-

▲ Back Page, Col.

### CUTTING REMARK

When Attlee went to Buckingham Palace to be sworn in as prime minister by the quiet King, he said, "I've won the election". George VI wryly replied, "I know. I heard it on the six o'clock news".

Election results in full are on Pages Three, Four, Five and Eight



## YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **26 July 1945**, the Labour Party secures a landslide win in the General Election


# "THE NATION... CAN BE ORGANISED FOR PEACE AND LIFE"

DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE

**T**he 1945 election marked a watershed in British history. It was generally believed that Winston Churchill – the nation's war hero – was unbeatable, just as David Lloyd George had been in 1918, following his leadership of the country in World War I. Yet Churchill was soundly defeated by Clement Attlee's Labour Party in the aftermath of World War II.

When Labour's victory was announced on 26 July 1945 (three weeks after polling day, to enable those overseas in the forces to vote), it took the country by surprise. Labour had persuaded voters that it was the only party capable of building a post-war world, via social reforms including a National Health Service and the nationalisation of major industries. Labour took 48 per cent of the vote and, for the first time, gained a majority with an impressive 146 seats.

The election was the first to be fought in Britain for ten years. The previous decade had seen massive change and a new, left-leaning consensus had gradually developed, with the 1942 Beveridge Report (which advocated a comprehensive welfare state) at its heart. The report's proposals were welcomed throughout the country but, from Churchill, it received only lukewarm support.

Churchill, the man who had doggedly led Britain to victory, was now out of step with the public mood. He was perceived as a 'man of war', not a suitable peacetime leader. Conservative numbers in the Commons dropped from 387 to 213. The Liberal Party was reduced to just 12 seats. Among the mass of new Labour faces entering Parliament for the first time were future prime ministers Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. 

**WAR WOUNDS**  
Winston Churchill addresses crowds in the Midlands on the campaign trail



### HOMES FOR ALL

During the war, 30 per cent of British homes had been destroyed. Labour responded by building **700,000 council houses** over the next six years.

**A NEW FRONTIER**  
ABOVE: A Labour supporter enthusiastically plasters up a campaign poster  
RIGHT: Clement Attlee and his wife Violet arrive at the Labour Party headquarters, London, on the day of their victory



## 1945 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**6 JULY** Frank Forde became prime minister of Australia when the incumbent died in office. He was in office for just eight days, making him the most shortlived PM in Australian history.

**22 JULY** Art treasures worth an estimated \$500 million, which had been looted by the Nazis during the war, were returned to two grateful galleries in Florence, Italy, by the US Army.

**28 JULY** A B-25 Mitchell bomber crashed into New York's Empire State Building during heavy fog. The structure withstood the hit, but three on board and 11 people in the building died.





#### HERO OR HERETIC?

In 1555, Dee was charged with heresy for **casting horoscopes** for Queen Mary and Princess Elizabeth. This charge was later increased to treason, but he managed to exonerate himself.

## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Magician, scientist, spy... The man who inspired Ian Fleming's *James Bond* certainly cast a spell on Queen Bess

# 1527 BIRTH OF JOHN DEE, THE ORIGINAL 007

*Dr John Dee was one of the most respected and eminent men of his time, but his many enemies ensured that he was ridiculed and eventually forgotten*

**W**ho was John Dee? Unlike his contemporaries Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake and William Shakespeare (who is said to have based the magician Prospero in *The Tempest* on Dee) – who are securely bookmarked in our catalogue of British history – Dr Dee, astrologer and confidant to Queen Elizabeth I, has no such acknowledgment.

He has been painted as a deluded man who looked to the stars for guidance, dabbled in alchemy and communed with angels. But an alternative view is that he was one of the most brilliant men of the Renaissance, whose contribution has been muddled by centuries of slander. He was a polymath, engaged with the most cutting-edge science of his day, which at the time was intertwined with magic, alchemy and the occult.

John Dee was born on 13 July 1527, in London. His father was a minor courtier who sent his son to Cambridge at 15. His appetite for knowledge meant he slept only four hours a night, spending his waking hours studying Greek, Latin, geometry, mathematics, astronomy, navigation, scripture, law, medicine and cryptography – the art of writing codes.

While still in his 20s, Dee was invited to lecture on algebra at the university in Paris. He swiftly

became the most successful lecturer on the Continent, packing halls and introducing the public to the +, -, x and ÷ signs for the first time.

Dee was England's foremost scientist, respectful – if not an advocate for – the controversial theory of heliocentrism (the astronomical model in which the planets all revolve around the Sun). He lifted astronomy from obscurity, taught mathematics and developed navigation systems that later would help to establish England's naval superiority.

While at the University of Louvain in the Netherlands, Dee studied the occult. This was

**“Elizabeth I wanted information about her enemies and needed a spy – the well-travelled and loyal Dr Dee was her man”**

not uncommon for the era's intelligentsia, for whom science and magic were part of the quest to understand God.

#### A STORM ON THE SPANISH

When Elizabeth I took the English throne, she consulted Dee on a regular basis, and he even chose her coronation date. It was said he cast a spell on the Spanish Armada in 1588, which sent huge

waves crashing down on their ships. A more likely explanation is that because he knew about meteorology, he was able to anticipate the storm. When the Spanish ships approached England, Dee suggested waiting. He correctly predicted that storms would destroy the Spanish fleet and it would be best to keep the English ships at bay. Most of the Spanish ships were lost or damaged and, when the storms subsided, the English ships disposed of the rest. It was Dee's greatest moment.

Queen Elizabeth saw his potential, and knew he could do more for her. She wanted information about her enemies and needed a spy – the well-travelled and loyal Dr Dee was her man. He used his position as a scientific and astrological adviser to accumulate the largest library in England at his house in Mortlake – 2,670 manuscripts, as opposed to Cambridge's 451, and Oxford's 379 – and to

build a network of scientists, intellectuals and courtiers throughout Europe, which he likely used for intelligence gathering. Dee signed his letters to Elizabeth '007'. The two circles symbolised the eyes of Queen Elizabeth ('for your eyes only') and seven was the alchemist's lucky number – something picked up centuries later by James Bond creator Ian Fleming.

Dee played an essential role in what one day became the British intelligence service.

#### ANGELS AND DEMONS

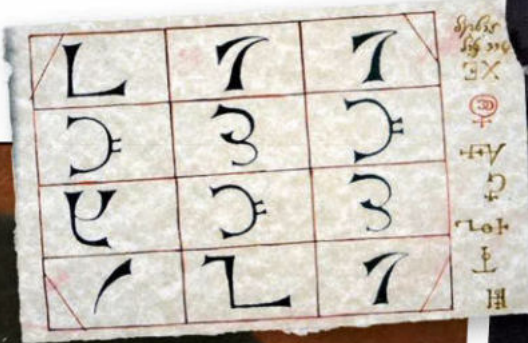
Dee spent his later years trying to communicate with angels. For years, he had attempted to apply his knowledge of optics to scrying, (conjuring spirits into a crystal). His experiments were unimpressive until 1582, when a bizarre character entered his life. Edward Kelley was a 26-year-old alcoholic with cropped ears (punishment for counterfeiting coins). He was also a scryer with a reputation for sorcery. Dee's wife Jane loathed him, but Dee, believing Kelley had the knack, signed him up.

Over the next ten years, the pair devoted themselves to contacting angels. When the spirits appeared, they would allegedly transmit prophecies and give pronouncements on the spiritual nature of mankind. Unfortunately, all that survives

**EYES OF THE QUEEN**  
Elizabeth I was fascinated by Dee's experiments

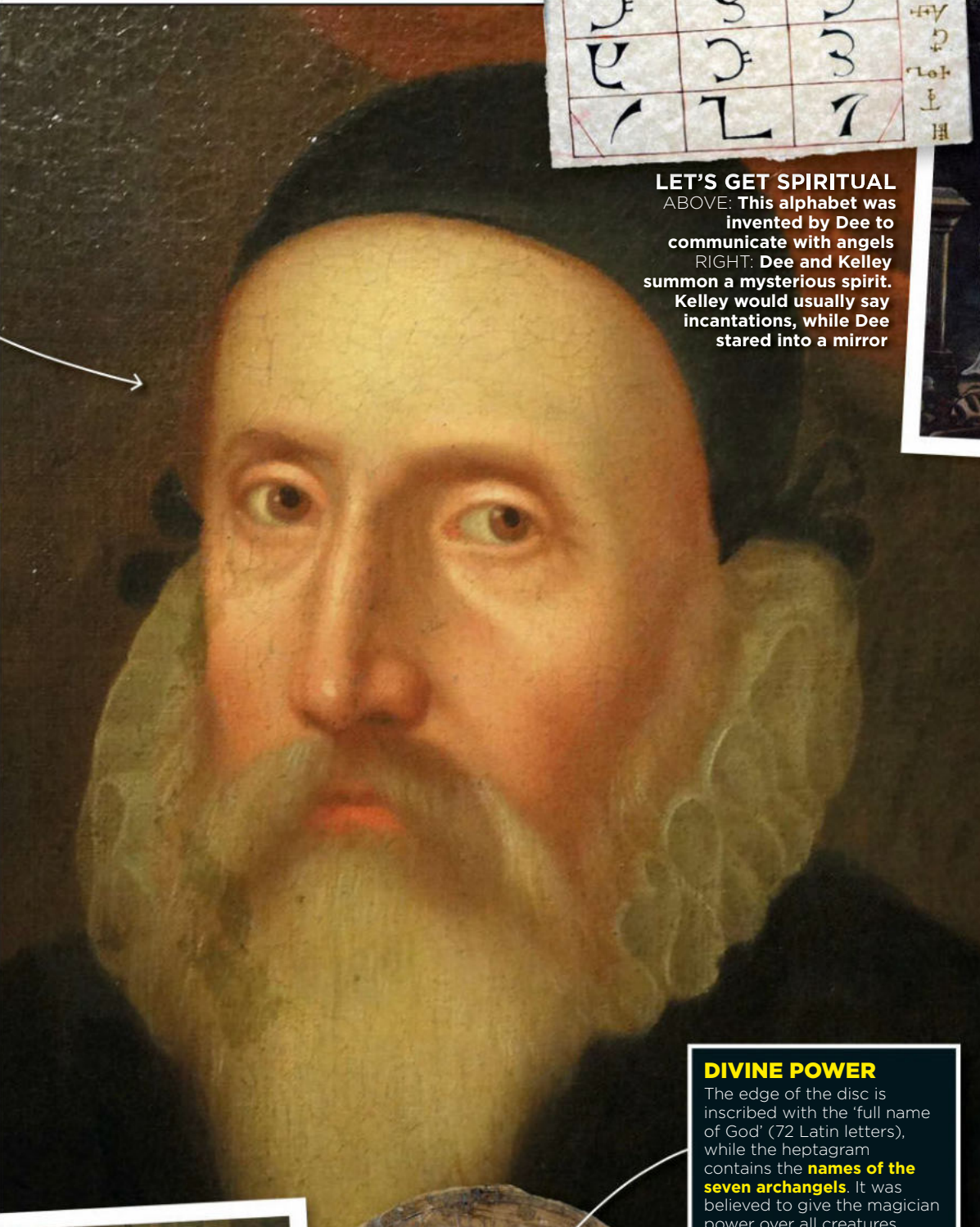






### LET'S GET SPIRITUAL

ABOVE: This alphabet was invented by Dee to communicate with angels  
 RIGHT: Dee and Kelley summon a mysterious spirit. Kelley would usually say incantations, while Dee stared into a mirror



### DIVINE POWER

The edge of the disc is inscribed with the 'full name of God' (72 Latin letters), while the heptagram contains the **names of the seven archangels**. It was believed to give the magician power over all creatures.



### WORTH A FORTUNE

This wax disc was known as the 'seal of God', and was used to support Dee's crystal ball. It now resides in the British Museum

from these sessions are 'spirit diaries', which were dug up in a field ten years after Dee's death. These contain a completely new language, with its own grammar and syntax. Was it celestial lingo or, as 17th-century scientist Robert Hooke suggested, a code Dee used to send top-secret political information back to England?

Dee left England in the 1580s for Poland, entrusting his house and library to the care of his brother-in-law. While away, his home was ransacked and his manuscripts were burnt or stolen. Shortly after Dee returned to England, plague swept the country, for which he was blamed. The plague took his wife and four of their eight children. When Elizabeth died in 1603, Dee lost his ability to defend himself from his many enemies – including James I, who liked to personally oversee the torture of women accused of witchcraft.

Dee spent his final days alone in poverty, selling his books and casting astrological charts. He died at the considerable age of 82, and was buried in Mortlake, but his gravestone has since disappeared. There is no monument to mark the life of one of the most learned scholars the world has ever produced. ○



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Know any other amazing figures who could be our next Extraordinary Tale?

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## GRAPHIC HISTORY

LGBTQ+ rights in Britain

### 1967 SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT IS PASSED

After centuries of persecution and prosecution, homosexuality is partially decriminalised, but there was still a long way to go before full equality could be achieved

## TIMELINE

The road to equality in the UK

1102

The Archbishop of Canterbury denounces homosexuality as a sin for the first time, but punishments are rare, as counseling is preferred



1533

Henry VIII passes the Buggery Act, making all male-male activity punishable by death



1680

The marriage of Arabella Hunt (right) and 'James Howard' is annulled, after it is discovered that Howard is in fact a woman



1724

Margaret Clap opens her first coffee house, serving as a secret meeting place for the underground gay community. A raid two years later results in the hanging of three men



1785

Philosopher and jurist Jeremy Bentham becomes one of the first people to argue for the decriminalisation of sodomy



1835

James Pratt and John Smith are hanged after they are caught having sex in a private room. They are the last to be executed for buggery in Britain



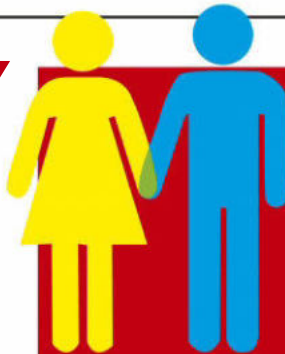
1861

The death penalty for buggery is abolished



1866

Marriage is legally defined as being between one man and one woman, preventing any future same-sex marriages



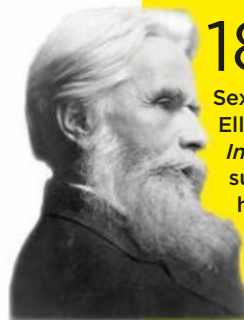
1885

The offence of 'gross indecency' is created, making all sexual acts between men illegal. Previously, the only law on gay sex was the prohibition of sodomy (which applied equally to heterosexuals)



1897

Sexologist Havelock Ellis publishes *Sexual Inversion*, which suggests that homosexuality is not a disease but a natural anomaly, to be accepted, not treated



1912

England's first gay club, Madame Strindberg's 'The Cave of the Golden Calf', opens in London

1945

Physician Michael Dillon (born Laura Dillon) becomes the first person to undergo sex reassignment surgery



1967

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 is passed, legalizing private homosexual acts between men aged over 21 in England and Wales





18

1994

The age of consent for male homosexual acts is reduced to 18

16

2001

The age of consent is lowered to 16, despite rejection in the House of Lords

2002

Same-sex couples are granted equal rights to adopt



2003

Section 28 is repealed

1988

Margaret Thatcher's government introduces Section 28, which states a local authority "shall not promote homosexuality" or "promote the teaching... of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship"

1983

Britain reports 17 cases of AIDS. Gay men are asked not to donate blood as a result

1980

The decriminalisation of private homosexual acts comes into force in Scotland, followed by Northern Ireland two years later



1972

Seven hundred people march in Britain's first Gay Pride Rally in London



**"THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM THIS DISABILITY CARRY A GREAT WEIGHT OF SHAME ALL THEIR LIVES"**

ROY JENKINS, HOME SECRETARY, 1967

2004

The Civil Partnership Act is passed, giving homosexual couples the same rights as married, heterosexual couples



2011

Gay and bi men in England, Wales and Scotland are allowed to donate blood. Northern Ireland eventually follows suit in 2016



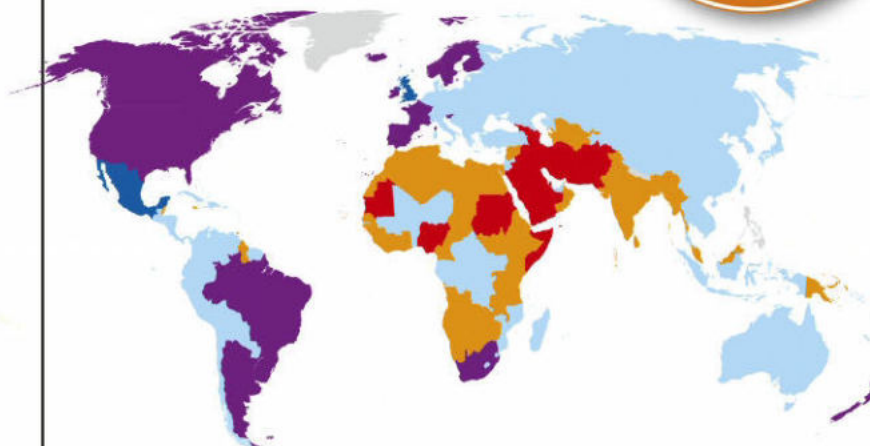
2014

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in England, Wales and Scotland



## GLOBAL LAWS AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY

How the world looked in 2016



**DID YOU KNOW?**

### LADIES ONLY

Lesbianism has never actually been illegal in the UK. The laws banning illicit sexual activity only ever referred to male homosexuality.

### PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUAL ACTS

- Red square: Homosexual acts can be punished by death
- Orange square: Homosexual acts are illegal

### RELATIVELY NEUTRAL

- Grey square: No specific laws on gay rights
- Light blue square: Homosexual acts are legal

### RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX UNIONS

- Purple square: Same-sex marriage is allowed
- Dark blue square: Same-sex marriage is allowed in some jurisdictions



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

On 26 July 1953, Cuban Communists lead an armed revolt, ending in defeat

# 1953 CASTRO'S FAILED REVOLUTION

*In an effort to overthrow Cuba's dictator, a young Fidel Castro attacks the Moncada Barracks, igniting the spark of rebellion*

As the Sun rose on the city of Santiago de Cuba, around 150 men (and two women) led by Fidel Castro set off for the Moncada Barracks – a base of government troops – with revolution in mind. Although sheer audacity was not enough to secure victory that day, they unleashed a chain of events that would ultimately lead to a Communist takeover in 1959.

Castro, a lawyer, had opposed the Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's US-backed regime of 1940–44. When Batista led a coup and took the presidency again in 1952, Fidel and his brother Raúl decided that to get rid of him once and for all, they would have to use non-legal means.

The Moncada attack was the first step in their plan to acquire much-needed weapons and public support. To look the part, one of their contacts stole military uniforms from the army hospital he worked at. This allowed the rebels to gain initial access to the barracks by pretending that they had been sent from elsewhere in Cuba. Once inside, they would split up, seize the weapons, and distract the military by broadcasting fake messages.

### SHATTERED DREAMS

The date was set for the early morning of 26 July – the day after the riotous St James fiestas

in Santiago – perhaps in the hope that many of the troops would still be hungover or drunk. However, their plan was doomed. Relying on the element of surprise as their main asset would – as Castro later wrote – be their downfall. As the men drove their convoy into the barracks, they broke away too early, and in a panic someone opened fire before they even got past the front gates, blowing their cover. Batista's men (who were not as sluggish as the rebels had hoped) descended.

Nearly 20 of the rebels were executed immediately, and most were soon captured. A few, including Fidel and Raúl Castro, escaped into the mountains, but were soon caught and put on trial. Fidel, a trained lawyer, confidently provided his own defence. In what is now known as the famous 'History will absolve me' speech, he spoke for a dazzling four hours straight, criticising Batista and outlining his dreams for Cuba.

The brothers served less than two years of their 15-year sentence. They were released only because Batista did not see them as a serious threat. But just four years later, Castro would achieve his goal, and permanently unseat the dictator. Though they may have lost the battle at Moncada, they certainly won the war. 🗳️

### PEOPLE'S HERO

In an attempt to humiliate the rebels, Batista ensured that Castro's **trial was highly publicised**. However, Batista inadvertently gave Castro the publicity he wanted, generating a wave of new Communist supporters.



**“Condemn me, it does not matter. History will absolve me”**

*Fidel Castro in court, 1953*





## PASSION OF YOUTH

Fidel Castro, without his distinctive beard, is led to his trial under armed escort, September 1953

### FLYING THE FLAG

The flag of the 26 July Movement – a black-and-red banner with a '26' emblem in the middle – has become the definitive **symbol for the Communist Party of Cuba**. The military also wears an armband with a similar design.

### A DAY TO REMEMBER

RIGHT: On the day Castro ousted Batista in 1959, his supporters paraded through Havana with banners celebrating 26 July  
BELOW: A poster implores its viewers to remember the heroes of Moncada





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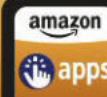
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**THE LITTLE  
CORPORAL**

From being an outsider  
growing up in Corsica,  
Napoleon Bonaparte rose  
to become Europe's  
greatest military mind







# NAPOLEON

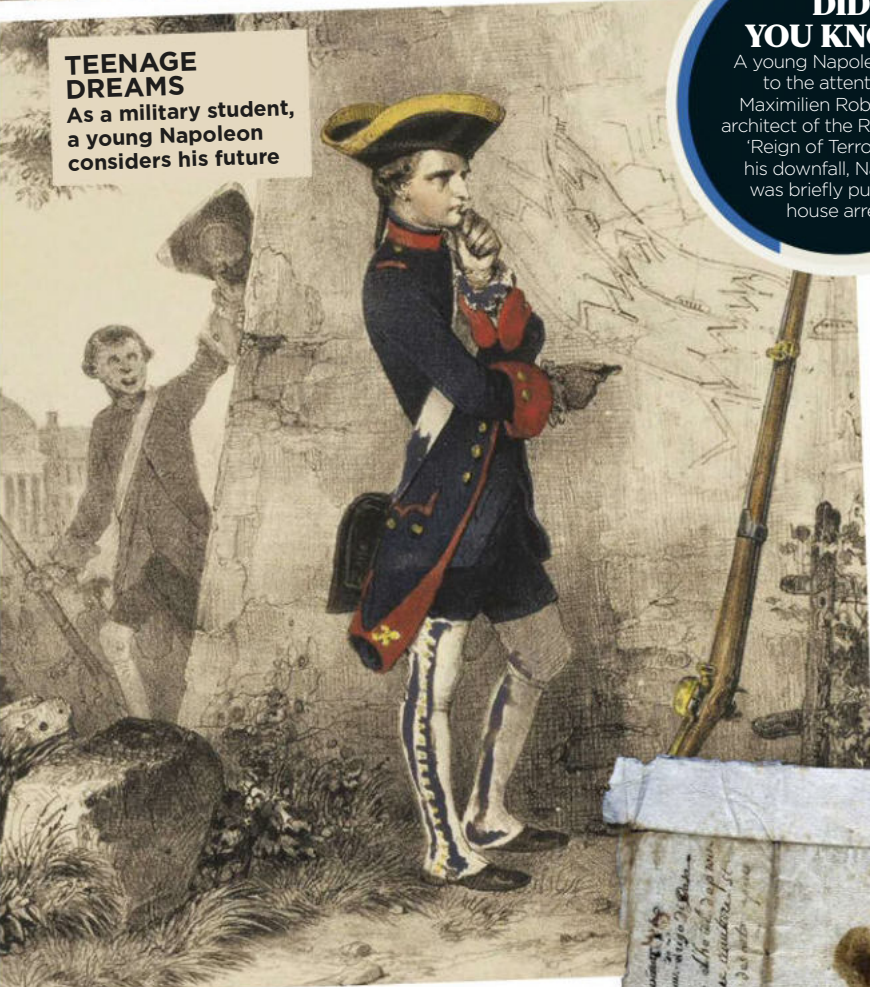
## THE RISE AND FALL OF A DICTATOR

A soldier who made himself an emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte towered over Europe. **Jonny Wilkes** charts the ups and downs of the great conqueror



## TEENAGE DREAMS

As a military student, a young Napoleon considers his future

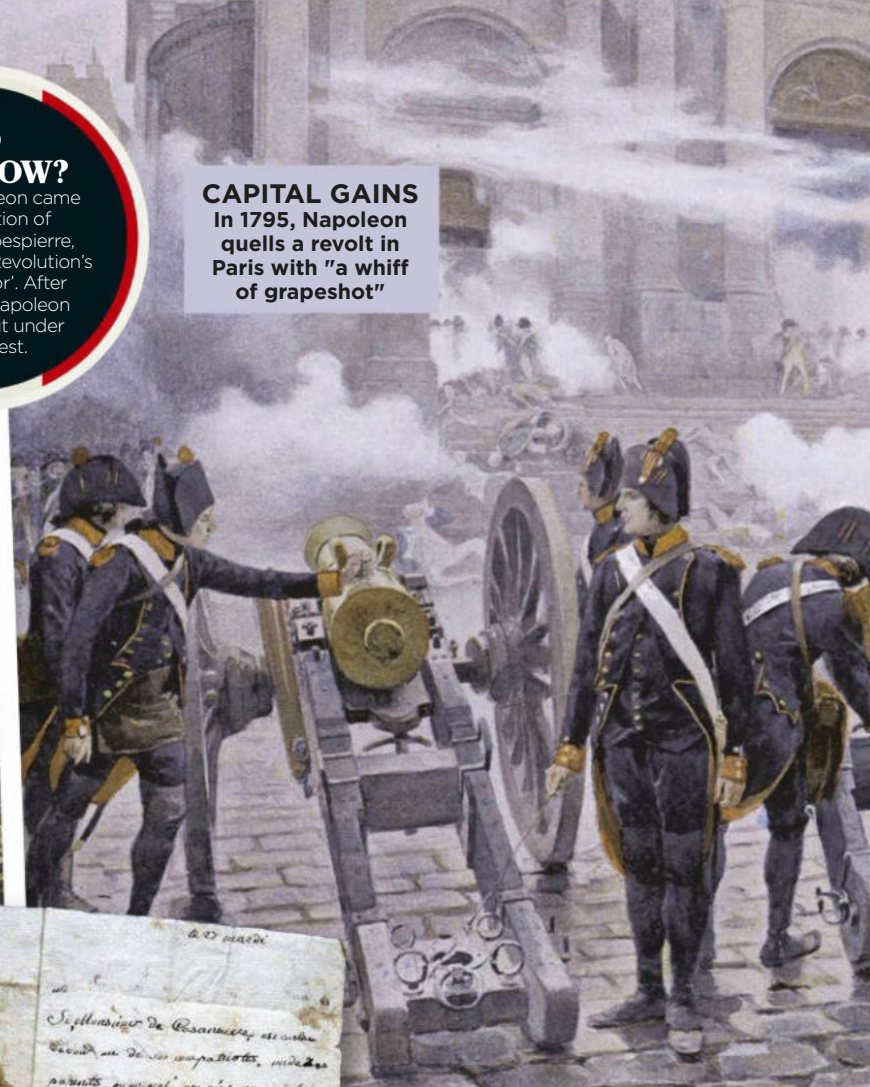


## DID YOU KNOW?

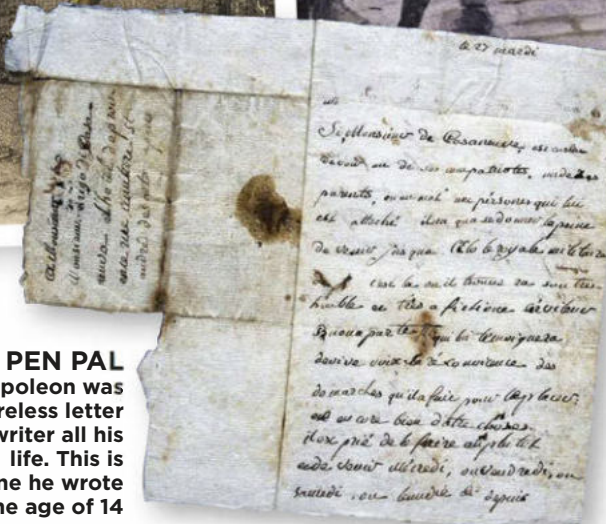
A young Napoleon came to the attention of Maximilien Robespierre, architect of the Revolution's 'Reign of Terror'. After his downfall, Napoleon was briefly put under house arrest.

## CAPITAL GAINS

In 1795, Napoleon quells a revolt in Paris with "a whiff of grapeshot"



**PEN PAL**  
Napoleon was a tireless letter writer all his life. This is one he wrote at the age of 14



Each day at Longwood House was not very different from the last. The man living – or confined – there would be awoken early, sip a cup of tea or coffee in his white pique dressing gown and red Morocco slippers, then wash from a silver basin. Mornings could include a ride around the island (a speck in the South Atlantic 1,000 miles from anywhere), but he found it humiliating to be followed by a British officer so put a stop to these excursions.

Instead he kept himself to the damp, windswept and rat-infested house, which stood alone so as better to be guarded by 125 sentries during the day, 72 at night. He staved off boredom by taking long baths, reading, talking with companions and dictating his memoirs. Gardening became another keen hobby as he considered it expansion of territory against his jailors. In the evenings, he entertained his few friends with a five-course meal and reciting French writers such as Molière, Corneille and Racine. The longer he could make these last, he remarked, meant a "victory against time". After retiring, he slept on an iron camp bed, a reminder of his glory days in battle. This is how Napoleon Bonaparte

passed the final five and a half years of his life in the wake of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

This had been the man who conquered continental Europe; the greatest military mind of his, perhaps any, time; a man whose battlefield nemesis, the Duke of Wellington, had described him as being worth 40,000 men. He had risen to be Emperor of France, then fallen to be prisoner of Saint Helena.

## THE OUTSIDER

Napoleon's career began 30 years before Waterloo, in 1785, when he graduated from the military academy in Paris. Although skilled in his studies and a ravenous reader of military strategies, it had been a trying education for the Corsican-born Napoleone di Buonaparte (he changed it to the more French-sounding name in 1796) as classmates always regarded him as an outsider, not

helped by his strange accent. Then when his father died, the 15-year-old became head of his family. He ended up bringing them to France in 1793 after relations in Corsica, where he had advocated independence from the French, broke down. Yet while the beloved homeland rejected him, his adopted nation offered opportunities to flourish.

Revolution swept through the country bringing about a new era, allowing the

**"THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON DESCRIBED NAPOLEON AS BEING WORTH 40,000 MEN"**

ambitious Napoleon to rise through the ranks. For his pivotal role in capturing the city of Toulon from royalists, during which he picked up a wound to the thigh, he became a brigadier-general at the age of 24. Coming to the rescue of the republic again in October 1795, he quashed a revolt in Paris that threatened to overthrow the National Convention.





#### DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Napoleon's supporters on his **home island of Corsica** were split between those supporting the French Revolution and those seeking independence from being ruled by Paris.

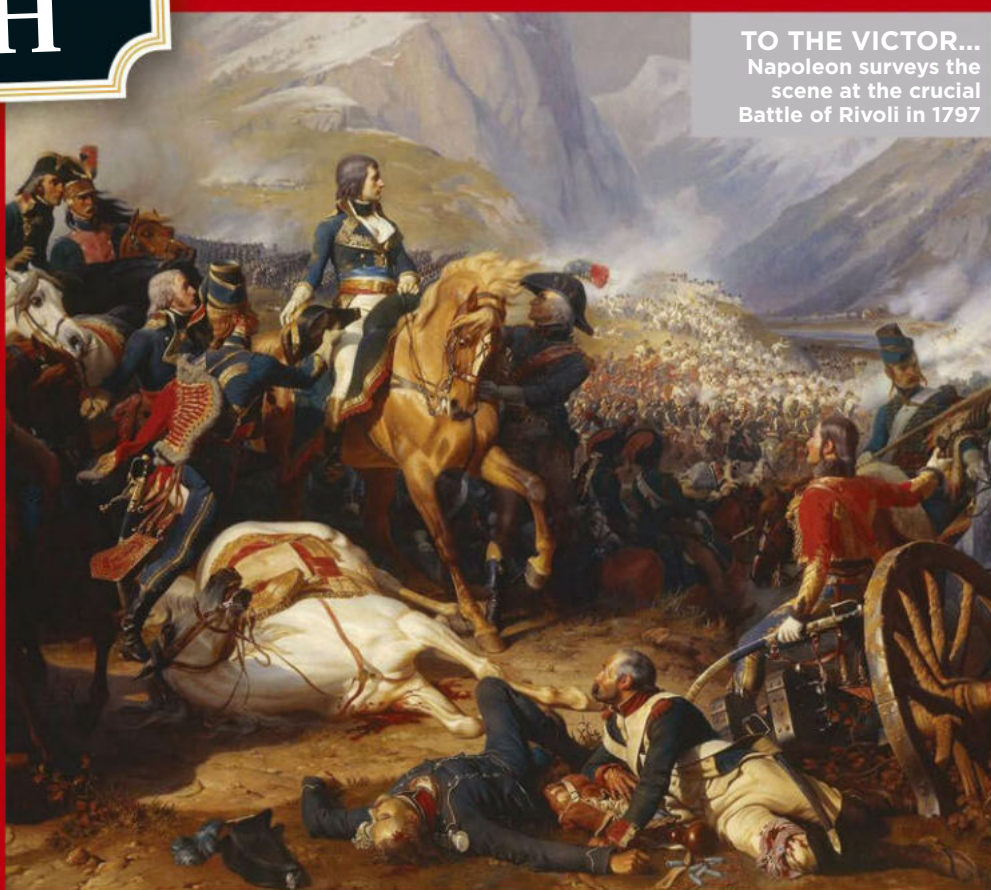


**YOUNG BUCK**  
The 22-year-old Napoleon as a lieutenant colonel of the Corsican National Guard

## TRIUMPH

### ITALY CAMPAIGN, 1796-97

In a lightning-quick campaign, Napoleon swept aside an alliance that had stood against the French since 1792. Despite finding his soldiers poorly equipped and outnumbered when he arrived in Italy in March 1796, he went on the attack, splitting the Austrian and Sardinian armies in his first battle and knocking out the forces of Piedmont by the end of April. Napoleon maintained the offensive with an unbroken string of victories, including the decisive Battle of Rivoli in January 1797, where the Austrians lost 14,000 men to France's 5,000. The Austrians gave up as Napoleon marched on Vienna, with the resulting Treaty of Campo Formio securing significant territorial gains in northern Italy. Napoleon returned to Paris both an undisputed national hero and an unmatched military tactician.



**TO THE VICTOR...**  
Napoleon surveys the scene at the crucial Battle of Rivoli in 1797



# TRIUMPH

## AUSTERLITZ, 1805

On 2 December 1805, Napoleon masterminded his greatest victory. He deliberately abandoned a strategic position near the town of Austerlitz in the Austrian Empire so that his army, which numbered around 68,000, would appear vulnerable. He then weakened his right flank so as to lure the 90,000-strong might of Russian Tsar Alexander I and the Holy Roman Emperor, Francis I of Austria, into a trap. They left their centre open to counterattack and Napoleon cut their line in two, with Marshal Soult viciously taking advantage.

On top of 26,000 enemy dead, wounded or captured, the Battle of the Three Emperors led to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire. His plans for an invasion of Britain may have been scuppered at Trafalgar earlier that year, but Napoleon proved he ruled on the continent.

### DID YOU KNOW?

During Napoleon's Egyptian campaign in 1799, one of his lieutenants discovered the Rosetta Stone, which helped decipher hieroglyphics.

NOT TONIGHT...  
Napoleon's marriage to Joséphine de Beauharnais was a tempestuous 14 years



**THE EMPEROR STRIKES BACK**  
Present-day history buffs re-enact the Battle of Austerlitz, scene of Napoleon's greatest military triumph

For this, he became military adviser to the new government, the Directory, and commander-in-chief of the French Army of Italy.

Just before leaving on his highly successful Italian campaign, Napoleon became utterly besotted by, and married, a woman six years older than him, a widow of the guillotine named Joséphine de Beauharnais. The countless letters professing his love (often using extremely fruity language: "A kiss on your heart and one much lower down, much lower!") did not stop her taking another lover. When he got suspicious, his tone dramatically shifted: "I don't love you, not at all; on the contrary, I detest you. You're a naughty, gawky, foolish slut".

### MILITARY MIGHT

While his marriage may have been tumultuous, the same could not be said about his record on the battlefield. The campaign gave early demonstrations of his military prowess: devastating speed of soldier movement, marshalling a mobile artillery, and concealing his true deployments to trick the enemy. The 'Little Corporal' returned to France a hero.

Napoleon became the Directory's only choice to lead their desired invasion of Britain. Although he quickly dismissed that idea, declaring that the French stood little chance at sea against the British navy, he did suggest that an attack on Egypt could cripple British trade routes to India. It was a canny move and got off to a victorious start in mid-1798 with Napoleon's 30,000 men flowing through Malta, landing at Alexandria and overcoming Egyptian forces at the Battle of the Pyramids on 21 July. By using defensive 'squares', the French reportedly lost only 29 men in exchange for thousands of cavalry and infantry.

The campaign, however, fell apart when the British obliterated the fleet at the Battle of the Nile on 1 August. With his army stranded on land, Napoleon marched into Syria in early 1799 and began a brutal series of conquests, only being halted at Acre, in modern-day Israel. Napoleon had a reputation for being loved by his men, but theories also suggest he tested their loyalty dearly by having plague-ridden





**SANDS OF TIME**  
THIS PIC: **Napoleon lost just 29 men at the Battle of the Pyramids**  
RIGHT: **at 30, Napoleon becomes the most powerful man in France**



#### NEW ORDER

In 1799, spotting the frailty of the French government, Napoleon and his comrades returned to Paris and **non-violently seized power**, installing himself as First Consul.

## “INTERNAL RIFTS AND MILITARY LOSSES HAD MADE THE GOVERNMENT VULNERABLE”

soldiers poisoned so they would not slow the retreat.

Yet this ultimate failure did nothing to ruin Napoleon's reputation or rise to power. Internal rifts and military losses had made the French government vulnerable, and he spotted an opportunity. Abandoning his army and hightailing it back to Paris, he and a small group staged a bloodless coup on 9 November, making him, at the age of 30, the most powerful man in France.

The uncertainty that let Napoleon become First Consul had persisted since the start of the Revolution, so he knew he needed stability. A military man to the core, he went on a characteristic offensive by driving the Austrians out of Italy at the Battle of Marengo on 14 June 1800, while back home he set about building and reorganising his new Grande Armée and establishing new training academies. By 1802, he had managed to buy himself time by signing the Treaty of Amiens with the British to restore peace in Europe, albeit an uneasy one. It only lasted a year.

What defined Napoleon's years as First Consul were his wide-ranging reforms, designed with a mix of pragmatism and Enlightenment thinking. The Napoleonic Code rewrote civil law, while the judicial, police and education systems all underwent significant changes. Napoleon improved infrastructure; founded the country's first central bank; instituted the Légion d'honneur to recognise military and civil achievements (it remains the country's highest decoration); and completed the Louisiana Purchase, where France sold huge tracts of land to the United States for millions. And although far from religious himself, Napoleon signed the Concordat in 1801 with the Pope, reconciling the Catholic Church with the Revolution.

### EMERGING EMPEROR

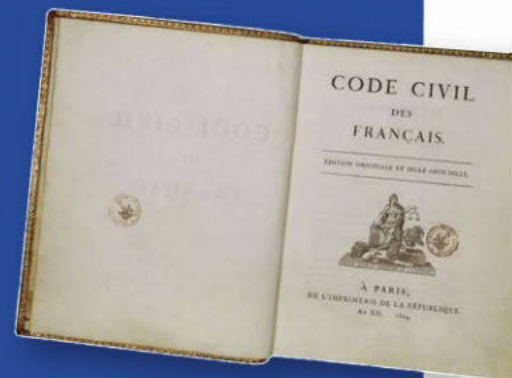
All the while, Napoleon made himself more powerful. In 1802, a referendum overwhelmingly anointed him as 'consul for life', a title that nonetheless still proved insufficient. Following the

## KEEPING THINGS CIVIL THE NAPOLEONIC CODE

Near the end of his life, Napoleon declared: “My real glory is not the 40 battles I won, for Waterloo's defeat will destroy the memory of as many victories. What nothing will destroy, what will live forever, is my Civil Code.”

The Napoleonic Code replaced the confusing, contradictory and cluttered laws of pre-revolutionary France with a single, up-to-date set of laws. It took four years for the country's top jurists – with the help of Napoleon himself – to draft its 2,281 articles. Enacted on 21 March 1804, the code concerns individual and group civil rights, as well as property rights compiled with a mix of liberalism and conservatism. So while all male citizens were granted equal rights, the code established women, in keeping with the general law of the time, as subordinate to their fathers or husbands.

Written so clearly and rationally, and with a desire to be accessible to all, the code was introduced to lands under Napoleon's control and went on to influence civil codes around Europe and even the Americas. Its impact can still be seen in laws today.







## DID YOU KNOW?

Although famous for being short, Napoleon was probably around 5 foot 6 inches – about average height for the time.

uncovering of an assassination attempt, Napoleon decided the security of his regime depended on a hereditary line of succession, so he made himself emperor.

So France went from monarchy to revolution to empire in 15 years. At Napoleon's lavish coronation at Notre Dame Cathedral on 2 December 1804, Pope Pius VII presented the crown to the new emperor, who took it and placed it on his head, demonstrating how he reached the pinnacle of power in France by his own merit.

The corpulent ceremony must have upset a great number of revolutionaries, who saw too many similarities with the pomp of the royals they had removed. Their concern would only be exacerbated when Napoleon became King of Italy in 1805, handing out titles to family and friends, and creating a nobility once again. He wanted the countries of Europe to see that France reigned supreme, but this inevitably meant war.

The Battle of Trafalgar (Horatio Nelson in his finest, if final, hour) once again confirmed British naval superiority and spoiled Napoleon's hopes of an invasion for good. On land, though, the Grande Armée seemed invincible, thanks to their leader's brilliantly conceived and executed strategies. Napoleon demonstrated a mercurial ability to adapt to changing circumstances and still make quick commands. A year to

the day after his coronation, he won his most spectacular victory at the Battle of Austerlitz, followed by defeats for the Prussians and the Russians.

The resulting Treaty of Tilsit in 1807, signed on a raft in the middle of the Neman River, allowed Napoleon to return to France for the first time in 300 days. It added Russia to his 'Continental System' too – an attempt to diminish the British economy by forbidding trade with European powers and putting a price on their ships. Not all countries complied enthusiastically though. The most reluctant was Portugal, of which Napoleon then prepared another invasion.

Initially, French troops marched through Spain with the permission of King Charles IV and occupied Lisbon, inciting revolts on the Iberian Peninsula.

**MAKE IT OFFICIAL**  
Napoleon signs the 1801 Concordat, reaffirming the Roman Catholic Church and restoring some papal power



## CORONATION TREAT

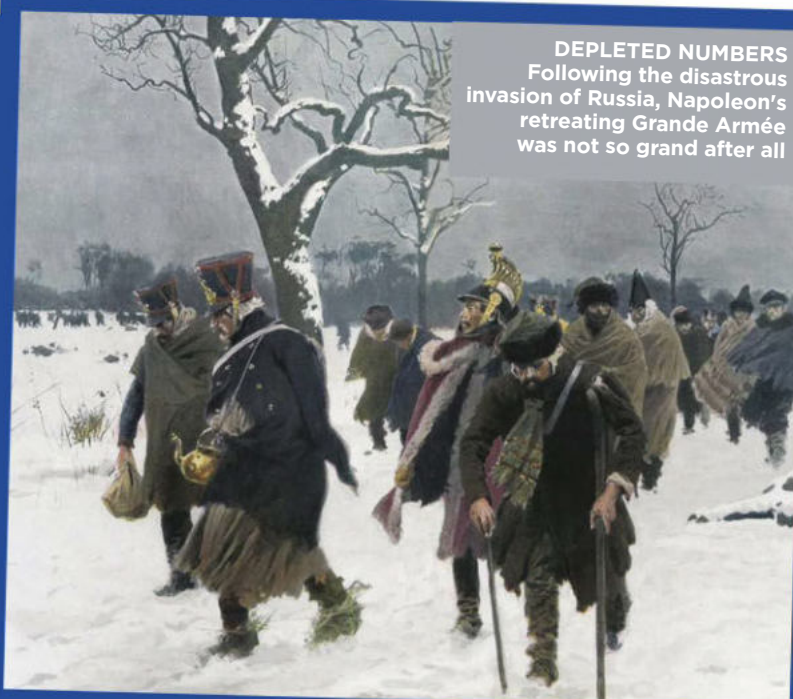
This coin commemorates Napoleon **becoming emperor** in 1804. He crowned himself to symbolise he had earned the position on merit, not through religious approval.

Napoleon escalated by appointing his brother Joseph as the new Spanish King and personally leading his Grande Armée across the Ebro River. During that 1808 campaign, he crushed the Spanish and drove the British troops to the coast, before having to turn his attention to a new Austrian threat in Bavaria. There, as the Peninsular War continued, Napoleon lost to an army at least twice the size of his at the Battle of Aspern-Essling

# DISASTER

## RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, 1812

Napoleon and a colossal army crossed the Neman River on 24 June 1812 to intimidate Russia, but it turned out to be the undoing of his empire. The Russians, under Mikhail Kutuzov, systematically retreated and scorched the earth, which dragged the French deep into their territory. Then, when the sides did do battle – a pyrrhic victory at Borodino on 7 September – it was the bloodiest day of Napoleon's career. The French entered Moscow a week later, only to find it evacuated (Russians also set parts of the city on fire to deprive the invaders of shelter and supplies). The retreat ended up being even more costly. Soldiers had insufficient clothing for the freezing temperatures of an early winter, disease devastated the ranks, and Russian forces pursued them all the way. A little over a sixth of the 600,000 men who marched into Russia crossed the river again.



**DEPLETED NUMBERS**  
Following the disastrous invasion of Russia, Napoleon's retreating Grande Armée was not so grand after all





**CROWN JEWELS**  
As a way of solidifying his rule at a time of Bourbon attacks, Napoleon is elected emperor with 99% of the vote

in May 1809. He quickly avenged his first defeat in a decade at Wagram, his largest engagement to date with his 154,000-strong force beating back 158,000 Austrians.

By 1811, Napoleon's empire was at its greatest, encompassing Italy and parts of Germany and Holland. And he finally had a male heir. As he had no children with Joséphine, he divorced her and swiftly married Marie-Louise, the 18-year-old daughter of the Austrian Emperor. She gave birth to a son, named after his father and given the title 'King of Rome'. Napoleon had been the most powerful figure in Europe for more than a decade, and now looked to establish a dynasty.

### MISGUIDED AMBITION

Then came a blunder, a fatally arrogant overreach, which brought his empire crumbling down. "In five years," he declared, "I shall be master of the world. There only remains Russia, but I shall crush her." Having amassed an immense force of more than 600,000, Napoleon marched into Russia in June 1812 to deter them from forming an alliance with Britain and to drag them into line over the Continental System. By the time the dregs of his Grande Armée stumbled out that November – some 400,000 having perished from starvation, a freezing winter and a merciless foe – many thought Napoleon could never recover.

Suddenly, the political map of Europe shifted. Countries defied Napoleon by pulling their soldiers from his ranks. The British, Spanish and Portuguese pushed the French back over the Pyrenees in the Peninsular War and another coalition formed against him. Napoleon still

# NAPOLEON IN NUMBERS

**15**

It's thought that Napoleon wrote, on average, 15 letters a day. He also wrote a romantic novel, *Clisson et Eugénie*, about a soldier and his lover. Napoleon used to be engaged to a woman named Eugénie.

**7**

Of the 60 battles that Napoleon fought, he lost only seven. These included Aspern-Essling in 1809 (the first time he personally lost as emperor), Leipzig in 1813, which facilitated his first abdication, and, of course, Waterloo.

**2,281**

The number of articles in the Civil Code. Before its enactment in 1804, France was bound to a chaotic heap of laws, causing Voltaire to remark: "A man that travels in this country changes his law almost as often as he changes his horses."

**156**

The number of infantry regiments in the Grande Armée. Napoleon split his forces into corps, able to engage an enemy independently and hold out until reinforcements arrived. This gave his army great speed.

**24**

For his part in capturing the city of Toulon in 1793, during which he received a wound in the thigh, Napoleon was promoted to brigadier-general at the age of just 24.

**2**

Napoleon married his first wife Joséphine on 9 March 1796. Only two days later, he left for his military campaign in Italy.

**84**

The number of days that his second reign lasted.

**22,000**

The Battle of Austerlitz in 1805 proved to be Napoleon's greatest victory, because of both his tactical brilliance and the extent to which he was outnumbered at the outset of fighting. His army consisted of around 68,000 men – 22,000 fewer than the Austrians and Russians.

**70,000**

The bloodiest battle of all of Napoleon's wars came during his disastrous Russian campaign. At Borodino, at least 70,000 died in total – around 30,000 of them from his army.

**1.7**

When Napoleon's army crossed back over the Neman River after the Russian campaign, there were only 10,000 troops fit for combat – 1.7% of the original force.

**300**

After abdicating on 11 April 1814, Napoleon went into exile on the small Mediterranean island of Elba, where he spent just 300 days before returning to France. While on the island, he carried out huge infrastructure projects, including road building, developing iron mines and overhauling the legal and education system.

**42**

When Napoleon graduated from the École Militaire in Paris, he came 42nd in a class of 58. His father had died, causing the 15-year-old to complete his studies in one year instead of two.

**SOLD**

**828,000**

In 1803, the French negotiated the sale of 828,000 square miles of Louisiana territory to the United States, doubling the size of the country. The money the Louisiana Purchase brought in would help fund Napoleon's military campaigns.



# DISASTER

## BATTLE OF WATERLOO, 1815

Very soon after Napoleon had pulled off a return to power in 1815, his empire came crashing down a second time. He hoped to quash yet another coalition formed against him – Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia – by striking before their armies could unite. So, on 18 June, at Waterloo in present-day Belgium, 72,000 French soldiers faced a 68,000-strong allied force under the Duke of Wellington. While the fighting seemed even (Wellington called the battle “the nearest-run thing you ever saw in your life”), Napoleon made tactical errors, including launching his Imperial Guard too late. Perhaps more significantly, he had waited until midday before ordering his initial attack in order to let the muddy ground dry, giving Gebhard Lebrecht von Blücher’s Prussians time to enter the fray later on. They smashed against his right flank and the battle was lost. Four days later, Napoleon abdicated again – for the last time.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Napoleon could survive on only a few hours of sleep a night, but he enjoyed naps right before, or even during, a battle.

### THE GREAT ESCAPE?

There were numerous plans to **spring Napoleon from captivity**. An Irishman called Tom Johnson claimed that, in 1820, he was offered £40,000 to rescue him from Saint Helena in a curious plot involving a primitive submarine.

ALL BY MYSELF  
This Oscar Rex painting reflects the solitude of Napoleon’s exile on Saint Helena



**DAMAGING DEFEAT**  
Rare tactical errors on the battlefield from Napoleon were the cause of his great humiliation at Waterloo

proved formidable on the battlefield, but the Battle of Leipzig in October 1813 saw the Russians, Prussians, Austrians and Swedes achieve the decisive victory. The ‘Battle of the Nations’, as it became known, left 38,000 French dead or wounded and 20,000 captured.

France found itself attacked on all frontiers and its people, who had cheered Napoleon when he seemed invincible, now grew discontent over the ongoing wars, conscription and the numbers dying in battle. The legislative assembly, the Senate and his own generals turned on Napoleon, leaving the emperor no choice but to abdicate on 6 April 1814. In his place, the monarchy would be restored to France under King Louis XVIII.

It was agreed to send Napoleon into exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba, where he would have sovereignty, an annual income and a guard of 400 volunteers. Perhaps to go out on his own terms, the 45-year-old attempted suicide by taking a poison pill he had carried since Russia, but it had lost its potency and failed to kill him. Instead, he arrived on Elba on 4 May, and many thought that would be the end of Napoleon.

They were wrong. His time on the island lasted less than a year. Facing a life on Elba without his wife and son



**CLOSE QUARTERS**  
Behind this bust of  
the emperor is the  
camp bed on which  
he slept in exile



## “FRANCE FOUND ITSELF ATTACKED ON ALL FRONTIERS AND ITS PEOPLE GREW DISCONTENT”

(who had been sent to Austria), being denied his income and being aware of how the Bourbon Restoration of the monarchy rankled with the French people, he plotted a return.

Napoleon landed in France on 1 March 1815 with a guard of several hundred soldiers and headed north to Paris, gathering support along the way. When he reached the capital on 20 March, Louis XVIII had already fled and Napoleon, with an army already behind him, took power immediately. So began his second rule, known as the Hundred Days.

### THE SECOND EXILE

With an alliance of Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia preparing for war against the “Corsican ogre”, Napoleon wasted no time mustering 120,000 men for an offensive strike into Belgium. He landed the first blow at the Battle of Ligny on 16 June, but at Waterloo could not repeat his earlier military glories. Following his final defeat, Napoleon abdicated again on 22 June and went back into exile. This time, though, the British chose their distant, remote territory Saint Helena as Napoleon’s prison.

It took ten weeks for HMS *Bellerophon* to get to the South Atlantic island and when he first saw his new home through his field glasses, Napoleon commented: “It’s not an attractive place. I should have done better to remain in Egypt.” It became clear early on that any hope of escape – and there were plans – would be extremely slim. The British had Napoleon constantly under watch and the sight of an approaching boat would signal some 500 guns to be manned.

So Napoleon, cut off from the world he had shaped for so long, settled in to a life that would be nothing but tedious when compared to the achievements of his life. All he could do was relive them for his memoirs, which have helped define his legacy and reputation ever since. Napoleon’s health began to fail in 1817, limiting what he could do with his days even further. He died, likely from stomach cancer, on 5 May 1821 at the age of 51, lying in that iron camp bed that reminded him of how he once conquered Europe. ☹



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Could Napoleon have avoided his downfall?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## TOP 10

## 10 CONQUERORS TO RIVAL NAPOLEON

### SARGON OF AKKAD 2334-2279 BC

Considered to be probably the first empire builder in history, he conquered most of Mesopotamia. He was the founder of the Sargonic dynasty, which ruled the Akkadian Empire for a century after his death.



### CYRUS THE GREAT 550-29 BC

He founded the largest empire the world had seen and established such a strong political infrastructure in his conquered lands that it endured long after his death as the Persian Empire.



### ALEXANDER THE GREAT 336-23 BC

By the time he was 30, the King of Macedonia conquered Greece, defeated the Persians and reached India, all without losing a battle. More than 20 cities are named after him.



### ATTILA THE HUN AD 434-53

Another name bestowed to the barbarian ruler is ‘Scourge of God’. His hordes left destruction and death as they plundered the Roman Empire. It took the Romans to join up with the Visigoths to bring him down.



### WU ZETIAN AD 690-705

Not only was Wu Zetian at the heart of Chinese politics for more than half a century, but she took the throne for herself to become empress and oversaw the unification and major expansion of the empire.



### CHARLEMAGNE AD 800-14

The founder of what would become the Holy Roman Empire, Charlemagne united huge swathes of Europe – no wonder Napoleon wanted to draw comparisons with the great leader at his coronation.



### MAHMUD OF GHAZNA AD 998-1030

With the vast wealth he looted from his conquests (from modern-day Iran to India), the first ruler with the title of ‘Sultan’ transformed his capital into a centre of culture and learning.



### GENGHIS KHAN 1206-27

With a domain that stretched from Asia to Western Europe (the largest contiguous empire in history), a death toll exceeding 40 million and a neat line of innovative military tactics, the Mongol puts other conquerors to shame.



### HARI SINGH NALWA 1804-37

The ‘Tiger killer’ – he supposedly broke the jaw of a tiger with his bare hands – won victory after victory despite being overwhelmingly outnumbered. He even seized the Khyber Pass, something the British Empire couldn’t do.



### ADOLF HITLER 1933-45

The Nazi leader of Germany marched into most of Europe in search of ‘lebensraum’ (living space), as well as securing his title as history’s most-loathed person. But the Führer never delivered the 1,000-year Reich he promised.





# THIS IS SPARTA!

Ancient Greece's most brutal city-state may seem legendary, but the harsh way of life depicted in the movies was very real

Words: Alice Barnes-Brown



## In a nutshell: Greek city-states

The Ancient Greek civilisation was made up of hundreds of city-states known as 'poleis'. These were essentially groups of villages that had banded together in order to improve security and trade. Despite all worshipping the same gods and speaking the same language, each polis had its own government and army, and war between them was not uncommon.

### LIFE GOALS

Children of both genders were encouraged to take part in **competitive games and sports**. This came in useful, as Spartans were **respected athletes** at the Olympics.



### ELITE EARLY YEARS

Pupils of the agoge were enrolled by a so-called '**boy herder**' – a magistrate who handled the agoge's **strict admissions** process.

### EGG THEM ON

To toughen kids up, teachers would take advantage of pupils' **petty disputes**, and **manipulate children** to attack each other.

### KEEPING IT PROFESSIONAL?

Spartan teenagers were encouraged to have **elder male** mentors, as it would pass on knowledge. There were often **sexual relations** between pairs.

**BOYS TO MEN**  
Spartan children were raised in the agoge – a mix between a barracks and an old-fashioned boarding school. It was a harsh environment where punishments were doled out on a regular basis



## COULD YOU SURVIVE SPARTA?

**K**ing Leonidas was not one to be crossed. As the leader of Sparta, a notorious Greek city-state, he had gained a reputation as a man of astute military prowess – not to mention ruthlessness. Yet, one day, a messenger arrived at the city gates demanding submission to Sparta's mortal enemy, the Persian Empire. Unsurprisingly, the well-oiled Greek had other ideas, and booted the unfortunate man into a deep well. It defied all the laws of the time, but Leonidas was a man who lived by his own rules. This, after all, was Sparta.

This memorable scene from the 2007 film *300* – based on an account by the fifth-century-BC chronicler Herodotus – has since shaped our perception of a once-great civilisation. But who were this diehard bunch of warriors, and what was life really like for the average Spartan?

### IN THE BEGINNING

The region of Sparta in southern Greece (modern-day Laconia) has been occupied since at least the sixth millennium BC. In the Late Bronze Age (1600–1100 BC), it was invaded by Macedonian tribes from the north, who set about expanding its borders. Because of Sparta's mountainous surroundings, it never had a need for fortification, and by the seventh century BC, it was the dominant land-power in Ancient Greece. However, few Spartans could enjoy the privilege their exalted position in the region might have offered. For most, life was tough from start to finish.

To simply be born into this exclusive society did not guarantee you a place within it. Spartan mothers bathed newborn boys in wine, not

### DID YOU KNOW?

The phrase 'Laconic wit' – meaning dry humour – has its origins in Sparta. The Spartans' short, sweet and often very blunt remarks gained a reputation.

water as most other parents did, to single out those who suffered from convulsions or went into shock. The baby was then taken to a council of elders, who decided whether it

## “Infirm infants would be ceremoniously tossed into a chasm at the foot of Mount Taygetus”

home. But Spartan childhood was nothing like the idyllic, carefree youth Greek children often enjoy today. Since many fathers were away at war or performing other military duties, they were raised mostly by single mothers. In order for their offspring to survive the harsh Spartan system,

parents had to adopt a tough-love approach – there was no room for mollycoddling. From childhood, the Spartan values of obedience, ruggedness and discipline were rigorously instilled into young minds. To ensure that they were not spoiled (which is how the Spartans viewed other Greek children) growing boys and girls were fed on diets of stodgy, plain food. Any complaints, cries or temper tantrums were punished or simply ignored. In fact, Spartan nannies and wet nurses were highly sought after all over Greece due to their no-nonsense style of childcare.

Additionally, children were forcibly conditioned not to be afraid of the dark, and were left alone for extended periods of time. This experience would be vital for armed service, and they quickly learned that strength was key to survival.

When children reached the age of seven, their gender roles were firmly set in stone. Girls would

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### WARRIOR KING

Leonidas became a hero of self-sacrifice long after his death

### THE REAL EVENT

Leonidas throws the Persian messenger into the well

## TIMELINE Sparta, from legend to tourist attraction

### 8TH CENTURY BC

▼ **Lycurgus**, the arguably mythical Spartan leader, builds the kingdom into a unified military society, under the instruction of the Oracle at Delphi.

### 7TH CENTURY BC

The newly reformed society successfully invades its neighbours, Messenia, and enslaves its populace. This creates the first helots, and their descendants are also destined to be slaves.

### 550 BC

During an attempt to conquer Arcadia, the Spartans are so confident of victory that they bring chains, to shackle their new slaves, with them. However, they lose, and the chains are put on display in Arcadia for centuries.

### 494 BC

Spartan king **Cleomenes** tries to invade Argos. Though he fails to take the city itself, he defeats its people, and may have burned 5,000 of them to death. He is tried in his home city for impiety, but is miraculously acquitted.

### 490 BC

▲ Athens asks Sparta for help fighting the Persians at Marathon. Sparta refuses to move until the full moon rises (marking the end of their Apollo festival). They arrive one day after the battle – when the Athenians have already triumphed.





# SLAVERY

Whilst Spartan men and women were busy keeping fit and eating with their compatriots, the slaves (known as helots) kept the city-state afloat. Originally from Messenia, Sparta's conquered neighbours, the helots farmed the land, tended to the house, and sometimes looked after the children. In exchange for their labour, they were fed and housed, and occasionally allowed to keep their own Messenian customs and dress.

Slavery became so prevalent in ancient Sparta that the helots outnumbered Spartans by seven to one in 479 BC. After the first helot revolts, the slaves were seen as a constant threat to the social

structure of Sparta. In retaliation, the Ephors decreed that the poor helots were to be annually culled, so the fearsome Crypteia picked off the smart and strong ones in the dead of night.

When they weren't being murdered in droves, the Spartans made sure the surviving helots knew their place. One famous incident describes the citizens forcing their slaves to drink enough undiluted wine to get them blind drunk (something the Spartans would never do themselves), then parading them through the streets for all to see. This humiliated the helots, and set a bad example for all the young children watching.

remain with their mothers at home, but boys were plucked from the hearth and placed into brutal, state-sponsored military education – the agoge. This barrack-style school was compulsory for all male Spartans (known as 'Spartiates'), and existed for the purpose of creating soldiers. The youngest members of the agoge – or fresh meat, rather – were subjected to some of the most difficult challenges a Spartan could face. Regular athletic and gymnastic competitions were held, which boys and girls both participated in, and were largely conducted in the nude. However, this was the fun side of the agoge; it would get much worse than this.

## CLOTHING FOR ALL SEASONS

Despite the extremely hot Greek summers and the chilly winters, students were allocated only one piece of clothing for the entire year. The traditional Spartan red cloak (crimson, allegedly so that if they were wounded the blood wouldn't show) would have to suffice for all seasons. Theoretically, it would force its wearer to be resourceful, and prepare them for harsh battle conditions.

**DRUNK AGAIN**  
A Spartan family points and jeers at a forcibly drunken helot



### 480 BC

▼ It's Sparta's turn to fight the Persians. Three hundred Spartans make a last stand at Thermopylae, until they are betrayed and slaughtered.



### 479 BC

Sparta strikes back at the Battle of Plataea, in which they and other Greek armies attack a Persian camp, killing many men who are trapped inside – and turning the tide of the Persian invasion.

### 464 BC

A violent act of the gods strikes the city, in the form of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake (estimated on the modern Richter Scale). It destroys much of Sparta, and even takes chunks off nearby Mount Taygetus.

### 464 BC

Using the golden opportunity provided by the earthquake, the helots attack Sparta while it is weak and its citizen base is depleted, sparking a large-scale revolt that lasts for a number of years.

### 460 BC

▲ Horrified by Sparta's treatment of its Greek slaves, relations between Athens and Sparta become strained. Alarmed by each other's power, the two start fighting the First Peloponnesian War.



Nor was their bed a place to seek comfort, as it consisted solely of a simple reed mat, made by the boys themselves, who would gather the necessary materials from the banks of the nearby Eurotas river.

Food was equally wanting in appeal. A sloppy, black broth (a disgusting concoction of vinegar, pork and blood) was dished up in the canteen most days. Masters carefully calculated portion sizes to ensure that the boys would not starve, but were constantly hungry. To prepare them for military campaigns, pupils were actively encouraged to steal more food. If they were caught, they were punished – but only for not being sly enough.

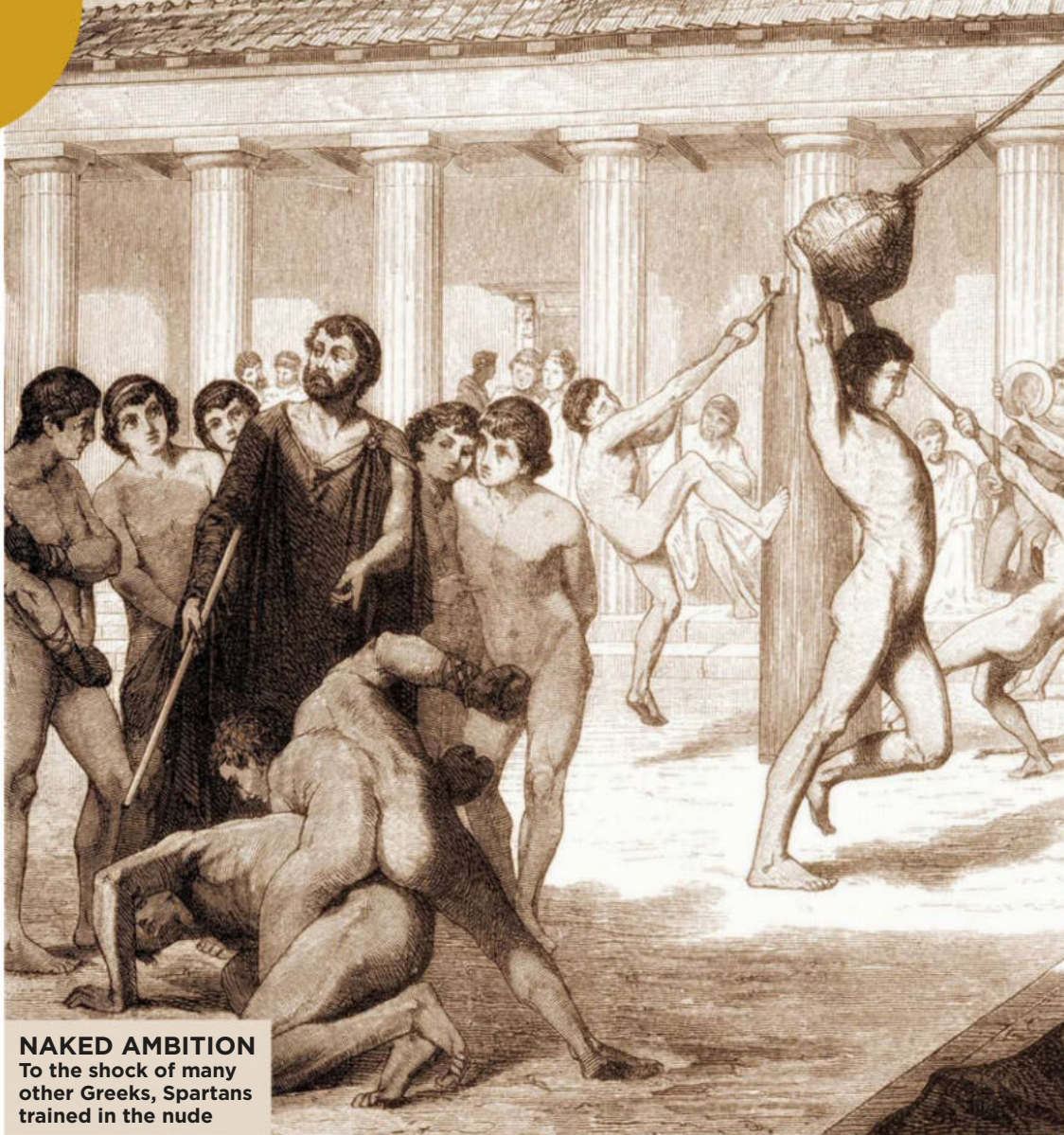
Fear and weakness were seen almost as criminal traits. Young Spartans often picked fights with one another to prove their strength and fearlessness. One of the most brutal shows of strength was the ‘diamastigosis’. This involved taking a group of boys to the local temple (the Temple of Artemis, goddess of hunting), and flogging them to within an inch of their lives.

If they survived 11 years of this, pupils – by now aged 18 – graduated to the Spartan reserve army. This was an opportunity to utilise the skills they had spent years developing, and gave them some experience of actual military life. Additionally, those young men who showed outstanding leadership skills were invited to join the eerie Crypteia – a secret police force designed to spy on and intimidate any troublemaking slaves who might pose a threat to the rigid social hierarchy.

## VOTING TASTES

When a man turned 20, greater expectations and responsibilities were piled on. Still he was forbidden from returning home. Instead, it was a public mess-group, known as a syssitia, that would be his home for the next decade. Though it was compulsory, entrance was not guaranteed. A soldier had to be elected to his chosen mess by its existing members.

This election was unconventional, to say the least. Members voted using bread. If they didn’t like the candidate, they would squash their chunk and put it back in the bowl, signifying their distaste. In the instance that a man hadn’t been permitted to enter the syssitia by the age of 30, he could never become a full Spartan



**NAKED AMBITION**  
To the shock of many other Greeks, Spartans trained in the nude

## “Young Spartans often picked fights with one another to prove their strength and fearlessness”

citizen. On top of this, he was now a full-time member of the Spartan army, and could be called away to combat at any moment.

Life in the syssitia was like a continuation of the agoge, incorporating all of its worst elements. The military mindset continued to prevail, and life was never easy. Members had to attend every day without fail, or risk losing their

chance of citizenship. Men who owned farms were required to donate some of their produce to the kitchens. But the pathetic portion sizes and bland food remained the same, designed to prevent overindulgence and obesity. Indeed, any Spartan who had (somehow) managed to become overweight was subject to public ridicule and shame, and could even face being



### 431 BC

▲ Once the peace of the first war has dissolved, Athens and Sparta go head-to-head again in the main Peloponnesian War.

### 414 BC

When Athens tries to take Syracuse, a Spartan ally based on Sicily, Sparta sends a force to reconquer it. After a full lunar eclipse, Athens superstitiously stays put, giving the Spartans enough time to trap and defeat them.

### 404 BC

Once Athens surrenders, an uneasy peace is brokered. Spartan leader Lysander installs a puppet Athenian government consisting of 30 tyrants, who murder a number of citizens. They are ousted the following year.

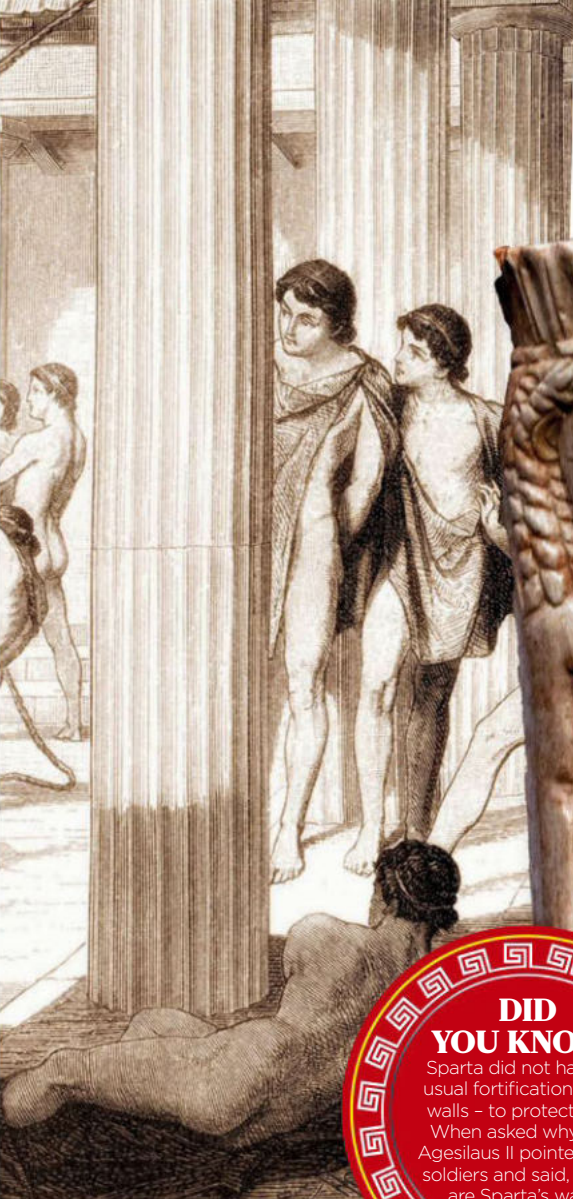
### 395 BC

A group of states, including Athens and Thebes, initiate the Corinthian War as they are alarmed at Sparta’s aggressive expansion. The Persians initially support them, but they later switch to the Spartan side.

### 371 BC

Though the Corinthian war has finished, Sparta and Thebes are still fighting. The Thebans use new marching tactics to inflict a crushing defeat on Sparta at the Battle of Leuctra, from which they never recover.





### DID YOU KNOW?

Sparta did not have the usual fortifications – city walls – to protect them. When asked why, King Agesilaus II pointed to his soldiers and said, "These are Sparta's walls!"

**ABOVE: Before the Battle of Thermopylae, the Spartans sacrifice a lamb, in the hope of pleasing the gods**

**LEFT: This statuette of Artemis dates from approximately 650 BC, and may have been used as an offering**

banished from the mess hall altogether.

If a Spartiate had managed to jump all these hurdles, he was finally granted the honour of full citizenship when he turned 30. He was also permitted to leave the barracks and start a family of his own, now able to officially marry. Of course, some men did get hitched before this age, but would have to stealthily sneak out of the mess under of the cover of darkness to visit their wives.

Though Sparta had a reputation for working hard, it also knew how to have

fun. Its citizens were known for their devotion to the gods, especially when those gods had festivals to be celebrated. These would often take place over several days, and all Spartan citizens would participate. There would be singing and dancing, as well as tasty grub. A welcome break from unappetising barrack food, festival feasting would include an array of cheese, bread, honey and figs, all washed down with a healthy gulp of wine – watered down, of course, for only barbarians drank it straight.

Indeed, Spartans took their partying (all in the name of the gods, obviously) so seriously

that they often turned up to battles or disputes late. For example, the Spartans arrived to the Battle of Marathon after it was over, as they were busy celebrating a festival to Apollo.

Even when a battle was going on, the gods played an important role. Before and after each fight, they would make sacrifices to the war god Ares. The animal chosen for slaughter afterwards depended on the outcome of the battle. According to Plutarch, if the Spartans won by outsmarting the enemy, they would sacrifice a bull. If it was a victory by sheer force, they would sacrifice a lesser animal (like a chicken), to encourage soldiers to improve their battle tactics.

## INTO BATTLE

Sparta's military reputation was almost unrivalled in the ancient world. They typically marched in phalanx formation, singing campaign songs and driving fear into the hearts of the enemy. In this formation, no man was higher than the other – except for the slaves, who accompanied each Spartan into the battle. Not only did Spartans act the part – they looked



**337 BC**

◀ After Philip II of Macedon has conquered most of the Peloponnese, all of its states join his new league for stability and protection – except Sparta, which refuses.

**229 BC**

In a last-ditch attempt to restore Sparta's greatness, Cleomenes III implements a set of reforms – including the creation of 4,000 new Spartan citizens, and the redistribution of land – even to those who lacked full citizenship.

**146 BC**

Sparta, along with the rest of Greece, is invaded by Rome after the Battle of Corinth. The Spartan way of life becomes something of a tourist attraction for Rome's wealthy citizens. Emperor Augustus himself visits a *syssitia*.

**AD 396**

▼ Visigoth chief Alaric lays waste to Sparta. After the attack, the town is abandoned.



**1834**

In a new wave of Greek nationalism, the Bavarian King Otto orders the re-founding of Sparta. Nea Sparti (New Sparta) is now home to almost 20,000 people, and does a thriving olive and citrus trade.





## COULD YOU SURVIVE SPARTA?

it. Alongside their signature crimson cloak, hoplite soldiers wore bronze helmets, underneath which were concealed their long and flowing locks. Every other Spartan, except unmarried women, had to keep their hair short – the long hair was a status symbol. Supposedly, they spent considerable time combing their hair before going to war.

The rest of their armour and weaponry was also usually bronze. Their shields, engraved with the Greek letter *lambda* (standing for Laconia, the region around Sparta) were of crucial importance. It symbolised honour, and no decent soldier would come back from battle without it. Mothers are rumoured to have said to their sons, upon presenting them with the shield, “Come back home with this, or on it.”

Surrender was unthinkable. Those who did were ostracised by society, and sometimes driven to suicide – if they were unable to regain their honour by dying in another battle.

### COME FULL CIRCLE

In the event that a man survived his lengthy 40-year career as an active soldier, he was finally allowed to retire from duty at the age of 60. Despite the difficulty, all that hard work may have been worthwhile. Elderly citizens were shown much more respect in Sparta than anywhere else in Greece. At last, a man wouldn't have to perform compulsory army drills, or train, or fight in battle. If he so wished, he could fill his days with crafting, spend time with his wife, or tell his grandchildren stories of his glory days.

ALAMY XI, GETTY XI, MOVIE STILL S XI

## THE GREAT EQUALISER

In this scene from *300* (a highly fictionalised account of the Battle of Thermopylae), Leonidas takes his place in the phalanx



### DID YOU KNOW?

When Philip II of Macedon threatened to invade, he said “If I reach Laconia, I will raze it to the ground”. The Spartans sent a simple reply: “If”.

Men who reached this senior age were also encouraged to become politicians, and serve on the Gerousia, a council of 28 elder statesmen that helped to create laws and make judgements. If elected, they would serve on it until the end of their natural lives. When they died, they would be buried, but without a headstone – these were only given to men who had died in battle, or women who had perished in childbirth. Their only legacy would be their children, who, like their parents, would also have to survive the brutality of Sparta. 📍

### GET HOOKED

#### BOOKS

*The Spartans: An Epic History* (2013), written by Cambridge professor Paul Cartledge, is a comprehensive guide to Sparta's peak period.

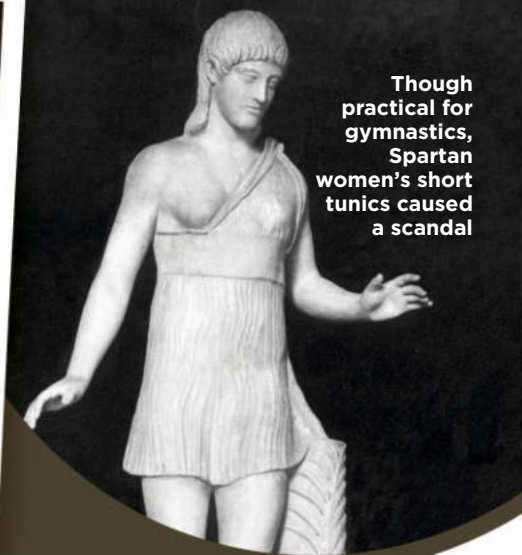
Plutarch's *On Sparta*, written in the first century BC, provides one of the most detailed, surviving accounts of the ancient civilisation.



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Could you have survived? How does Sparta shape up in comparison to other parts of Ancient Greece?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



Though practical for gymnastics, Spartan women's short tunics caused a scandal

## WOMEN

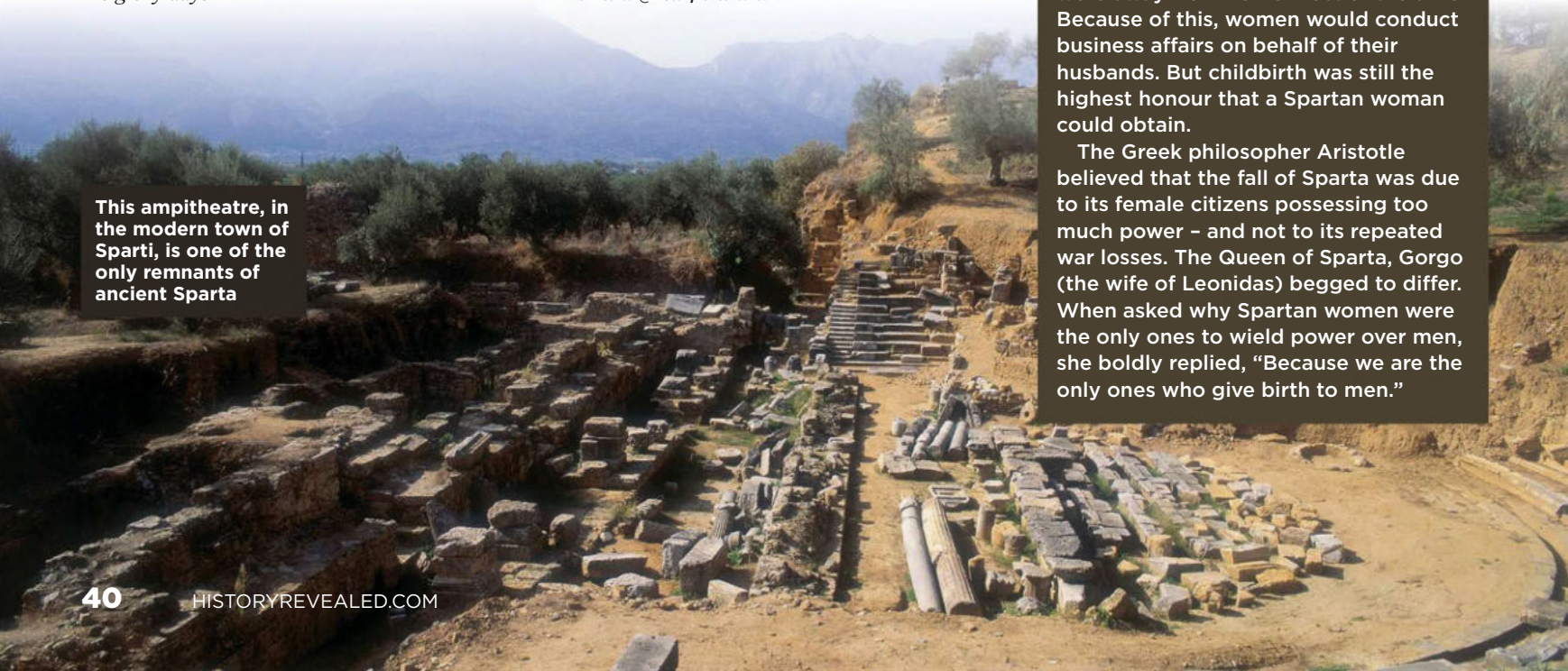
Unlike in other Greek cities, women in Sparta received a state-sponsored education, which expressed the importance of physical fitness and motherhood. The ever-pragmatic Spartans also allowed women to wear short tunics during exercise, and even to drive their own chariots.

They also possessed more rights than other Greek women – they were possibly permitted to divorce their husbands, and could own their own property. In fact, women owned over a third of all Spartan land. Thanks to the hardworking slaves, they were liberated from mundane housework chores, so women had the time to practise gymnastics and manage their property.

Marriage in Sparta was also uncharacteristic of Greece. Women were married relatively late, aged 20 (as opposed to the beginning of puberty), the theory being that healthier children could be born. Since many couples wedded while men were still in the *syssitia*, Spartan wives had more independence, as their husbands were away from home most of the time. Because of this, women would conduct business affairs on behalf of their husbands. But childbirth was still the highest honour that a Spartan woman could obtain.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle believed that the fall of Sparta was due to its female citizens possessing too much power – and not to its repeated war losses. The Queen of Sparta, Gorgo (the wife of Leonidas) begged to differ. When asked why Spartan women were the only ones to wield power over men, she boldly replied, “Because we are the only ones who give birth to men.”

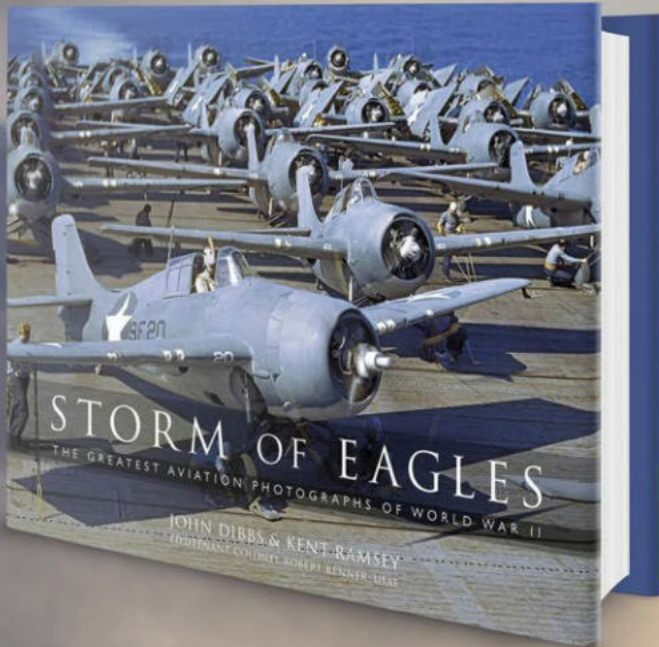
This amphitheatre, in the modern town of Sparta, is one of the only remnants of ancient Sparta





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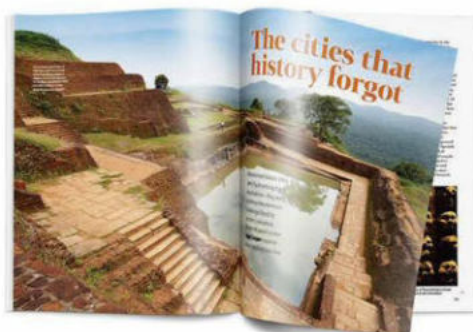
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# THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN

Her novels have come to define Regency England, and she is now remembered as one of history's wittiest writers. But Jane Austen hasn't always known success. On the bicentenary of her death, **Sandra Lawrence** tells her story.

POURTRAIT COURTESY OF THE 19TH CENTURY RARE BOOK AND PHOTOGRAPH SHOP, STEVENSON, MARYLAND XI. © JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE MUSEUM XI, ALAMY XI, GETTY XI





**P**ublished anonymously and poorly known during her lifetime, by the early Victorian period Jane Austen was hopelessly outdated. Charlotte Brontë, admittedly Austen's literary polar opposite, spent several letters describing her dislike of a world she saw as prim, proper and up-tight, "shrewd and observant" but whose "carefully fenced and highly cultivated gardens" saw "no glimpse of a bright, vivid physiognomy, no open country, no fresh air".

Austen's detractors remain, yet this summer, exactly 200 years since her death, hers will be the publicly endorsed face of the new ten-pound note. Subject of movies, books, TV, radio, graphic novels, apps, tourist trails, games, Bollywood-style reboots – even soft porn and zombies – she is more popular than ever and, unusually, as much for herself as her work.

Born in Steventon, Hampshire, on 16 December 1775, Jane was the seventh of eight children. Her father, George Austen, was rector of Steventon church. He had married Cassandra Leigh, from a considerably better-off background, and was bestowed the Steventon living by a cousin, Thomas Knight, just as things became financially precarious.

Jane was inseparable from her older sister Cassandra (named for her mother). When



ABOVE: **Tom Lefroy, an Irish barrister with whom Jane exchanged many letters, but was prevented from marrying by their parents** RIGHT: **Jane and Cassandra in their garden in Steventon**



# "I am not at all in a humour for writing; I must write on till I am"

*Jane Austen, in a letter to her sister Cassandra*

Cassandra was sent to a schoolmistress in Oxford, Jane insisted on going too. They moved with their teacher to Southampton, but the school closed after an outbreak of infectious disease (possibly typhus). It was a close thing; Jane nearly died. On their recovery, the girls

went to boarding school, but the fees proved too much for the Reverend Austen, and the rest of Jane's education came mainly from free access to her father's considerable library. She read pretty much anything she could lay her hands on, from scholarly works to popular novels. Her father indulged her obvious passion for writing, supplying Jane with paper and ink. The whole family listened to her many short stories, satires and poems, including the novella *Lady Susan*, a caustic portrait of a scheming society woman.

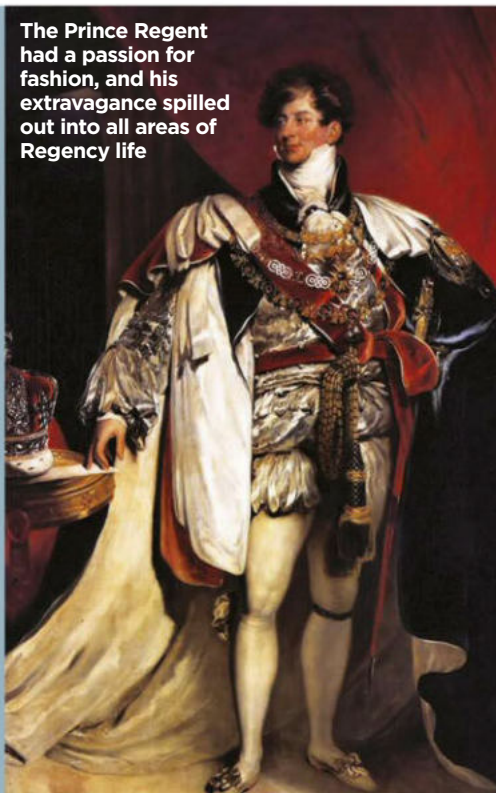
Jane's first novel, entitled *Elinor and Marianne*, was written some time before 1796 but remained unpublished.

## PRINCE OF PLEASURE THE REGENCY

After a 50-year reign, King George III was declared unfit to rule in 1810, due to his struggle with mental illness. In his stead, his unpopular son, the future George IV, was appointed by Parliament to become the de facto regent – hence 'Regency'. Though his father was still alive, Prince George would make all the important political decisions and duties of the King.

However, once he possessed the throne in 1820, George's interest in politics declined. Disliked by both the British public and the government, the King thought it best to leave the managing of state affairs to the Prime Minister, establishing the long-standing tradition of Parliament having ultimate sovereignty. Instead, the new King focused his energies on style and fashion, and the Regency era continued the decadent traditions of the Georgian time.

The Prince Regent had a passion for fashion, and his extravagance spilled out into all areas of Regency life



## ROMANCE AND REJECTION

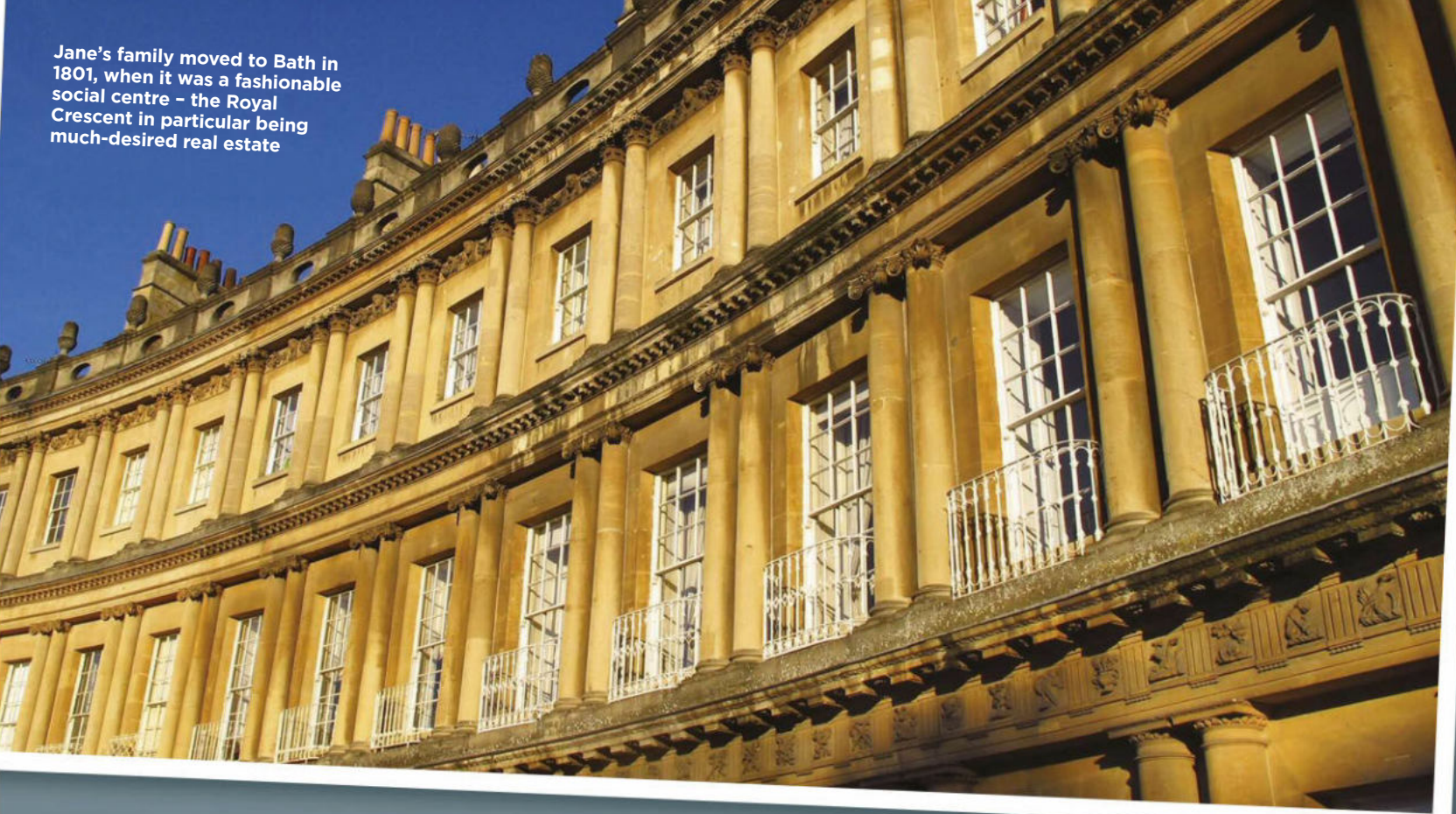
Jane famously never married, but she had flirtations. In 1796, she met a young Irish barrister, Tom Lefroy. It's hard to know from her surviving letters how keen she was on him, as the tone in her only remaining letters remains typically ironic, perhaps to shield her true feelings. She was clearly interested. So was he, he later admitted. Their parents were less so. Neither young person had money; both needed to marry some. He was called away and they never saw each other again. Tom later became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Jane wrote *First Impressions*, later to be retitled *Pride and Prejudice*. That wasn't published either.

By 1798, she began a third novel, *Susan*, a spoof Gothic novel. Bingo! A publisher paid £10 for the copyright – then did absolutely nothing to publish Jane's work.

In 1801, George Austen retired and moved the family to Bath. This should have been exciting for Jane. She had loved visits to the city as a teenager, but now, aged 25 and, in Regency eyes, edging towards the doom of spinsterhood, she saw it for what it was – hollow and old-fashioned, full of retired clergymen and elderly admirals. The Bath she so vividly lambasts in



Jane's family moved to Bath in 1801, when it was a fashionable social centre – the Royal Crescent in particular being much-desired real estate



## HOW TO BE LADYLIKE WOMEN IN GEORGIAN ENGLAND

For many years, feminists disapproved of Jane Austen's work as supporting a paternalistic status quo. More recently, her writing has been re-evaluated as slyly poking at paternalism in a time when overt methods would be dismissed.

To be a woman in Regency England meant being ruled by men. A good marriage was, for most, their only option – they were handed from their fathers' care into their husbands'. Any money or property went to their spouse upon marriage, so the only women with autonomy tended to be wealthy widows sensible enough not to remarry. Austen knew what it was like to be a gentleman's daughter with a decent lifestyle and nice house who, when her father died, was technically homeless, living on the charity of (male) relatives. No wonder her heroines are obsessed with marrying money.

A woman's virginity was her most precious asset. Once compromised, she was almost irredeemable. 'Fallen women' haunt the subplots of Austen's world. *Sense and Sensibility's* Colonel Brandon is the secret guardian of a child born of a woman seduced by a charlatan. In *Pride and Prejudice*, when young Lydia Bennet elopes to Brighton with playboy George Wickham, the best her family can hope for is that he is forced to marry her.

Regency women – and also men – strictly followed a largely unspoken code of behaviour, satirised and used by Austen in equal measure. The awkward customs

around 'calling' crop up – Mrs Bennet and her girls cannot visit their new neighbours until Mr Bennet has called to introduce himself to the man of the house. Jane Bennet tries to call upon Miss Bingley in London, but is told she is 'not at home' when her snobby 'friend' clearly is; an obvious snub. In a world where, without

introduction, people standing next to each other could not speak to each other, contacts were everything.

Dance etiquette brought its own minefield of potential faux-pas. Eyebrows were raised at couples dancing together too often, and even those refusing to dance were noted as future gossip-fodder.



**According to etiquette, if a lady refused to dance with a gentleman, she should not accept another invitation for the same dance**





The Navy offered a chance for men of humble birth to rise through the ranks

## SINGLE MEN OF LARGE FORTUNE

### THE REGENCY ERA'S MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELORS

Since jobs and professions were usually a no-go for the upper classes, there were only a few careers open to cash-strapped male aristocrats. One of these was the clergy, since the church was very respectable – and the heart of country society. Practically everyone went to church, for gossip if not for salvation, and the vicarage was usually one of the best homes in a village. A parish was a 'benefice' or 'living' rather than a 'calling', usually appointed by the landowner. It was often reserved for younger sons of landed gentry, who would not inherit the family estate. A woman looking for a husband with a secure future would do well to marry a local clergyman.

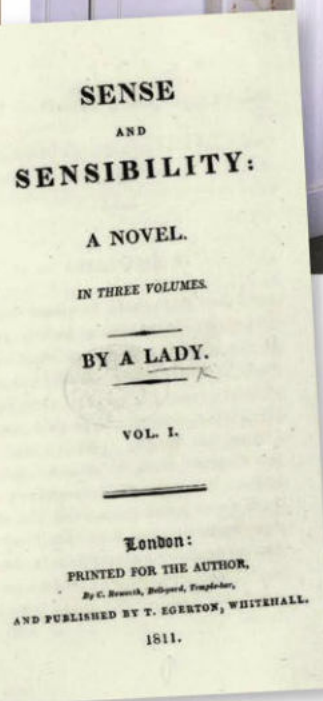
Austen had a sharp eye for clergymen. Mr Collins in *Pride and Prejudice* and Mr Elton in *Emma* are two of her funniest characters, but she recognised many men of the cloth were sincere. There are few examples in literature of a romantic hero that craves a career in the church, but Edward Ferrers in *Sense and Sensibility* and Edmund Bertram in *Mansfield Park* both fall into that category.

If they longed for adventure, the Navy was a good way for young men born without fortune to amass some money and standing. Prize money – a portion of the loot from captured enemy ships – was a great way to boost income, and even relatively humbly born men found it possible to rise through the ranks. Fanny's beloved brother William in *Mansfield Park*

is allegedly based on Jane's own two naval brothers: Francis, who eventually became Admiral of the Fleet, and Charles, Rear-Admiral of the famous warship *Namur*.

Servicemen in Austen's world, however, are double-edged sabres. Her younger, more impressionable female characters are obsessed with pleasure-seeking officers in their brightly coloured 'regimentals'. Colonel Brandon in *Sense and Sensibility* and Captain Wentworth in *Persuasion* are attractive, older 'men of the world', with a distinctly edgy feel. *Pride and Prejudice*'s Mr Wickham is such a rake, even the local militia won't have him and he is forced into the 'regulars' – a much more dangerous profession, which carried a real possibility of being called up to fight for the Duke of Wellington.

**Colin Firth's portrayal of Mr Darcy in the 1995 TV adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* is perhaps the most iconic**



ABOVE: Jane's writing table in the parlour at her home in Chawton, now the Jane Austen's House Museum LEFT: *Sense and Sensibility* was first published in 1811 with the attribution "By a Lady"

◀ *Northanger Abbey* (the title her brother gave her posthumously published novel, *Susan*) is the noisy fashion-trap of her youth, before the trendy set followed the Prince Regent to Brighton.

Jane was depressed and hardly wrote at all. She started and abandoned *The Watsons*, to which she would never return. She received a marriage proposal, and briefly accepted. Her fiancé, Harris Bigg-Wither, was a plain, dull man with a large fortune, small conversation and no tact. She couldn't live with herself. She decided that, like her heroines, she could marry only for love, and withdrew her consent the following morning.

Unlike her heroines, true love never knocked on her door again. Jane's refusal was a brave move. Marriage to Bigg-Wither would





have secured her – and her family – for life. Her decision must have kept her awake more than once, especially when her father died in 1805, leaving Jane, her mother and her sister financially vulnerable.

Echoing the fate of her own heroines Elinor and Marianne Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*, the women were forced to throw themselves on their male relatives' mercy, living in reduced circumstances as virtual nomads, moving from Bath to Worthing to Southampton, before finally being offered a cottage in the village of Chawton, on her brother Edward's estate. Edward had been adopted by the same Thomas Knight who had given George Austen the living at Steventon. He left the family estate to him on condition he changed his name. Edward Austen-Knight now lived just down the road in the rather grander Chawton House. Settled at last, and joined by Jane's great friend Martha Lloyd, the women's lives were stable but hardly full of excitement.

Jane was frustrated and in 1809, vented her annoyance to Richard Crosby, the irritating publisher who had been sitting on her manuscript of *Susan* for six years. Shrugging, he replied that he'd never said when he'd publish the book and she could buy back her copyright if she liked – for the same amount that he'd paid her. Jane was furious, and only managed to repurchase her own script seven years later in 1816.

## SUCCESS AND CENSORSHIP

Jane's brother Henry finally arranged publication of her first novel through bookseller Thomas Egerton in October 1811. *Elinor and Marianne* became *Sense and Sensibility*, with the coy attribution "By a Lady". It did well enough for *Pride and Prejudice* to follow in

## DRESS TO IMPRESS FASHION

Austen uses changing details in Regency fashion as cyphers. Her 'sillier' characters are obsessed with ribbons and bows, bonnets and dresses, and for good reason. Women had to make themselves look marriageable, which is why Elizabeth Bennet causes such consternation when she tramps through the mud to visit her sister and arrives at Netherfield with a dirty hem.

Dress was political, too. Empire lines originated in France, with whom Britain was at war. The look harked back to a different empire, though – that of the Romans, fashionable due to the continuing discovery of treasures at Pompeii.

Grace and 'naturalness' was everything. Dresses were getting flimsier and flimsier, but men's clothes were just as figure-hugging – frock coats and wigs had given way to cut-away waistcoats, trousers and tight breeches that left little to the imagination.

- 1: An empire line dress, so named for its Roman-inspired cut
- 2: Jane Austen's silk pelisse coat
- 3: A pair of ladies' shoes, circa 1795
- 4: Jane Austen's beaded purse







◀ 1813, with the equally mysterious “By the Author of *Sense and Sensibility*”. *Mansfield Park* arrived in 1814.

In 1816, Austen moved to John Murray, a better-known publisher, for her next novel, *Emma*, while she wrote another novel, *The Elliots*. This would eventually become *Persuasion*, but not in Jane’s lifetime.

Her brother Henry’s bank failed, losing the whole family large sums of money. Jane, her mother, sister and Martha were back on their own again, and Jane’s writing didn’t bring in enough to support them all. Things were tight.

No one knows exactly what Jane eventually died of. Addison’s disease and Hodgkin lymphoma are both possibilities, but the stress of financial instability can’t have helped. Trying to ignore her growing weakness, she started another novel, which would eventually be published in its unfinished form as *Sanditon*.

She was taken to Winchester, the nearest city, for treatment, but died on 18 July 1817. She is buried in the nave of Winchester Cathedral, though not initially on her merits; her brother Henry pulled strings through his clerical connections. Her memorial does not specifically mention her as a writer.

*Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* were published posthumously, and were the first to reveal the identity of their author. Jane Austen’s work has never been out of print since.

Charlotte Brontë was not alone when she accused Austen of up-tight elegance over tousled romanticism. Much of the mid-19th century saw her as a minor author, not helped by various relatives, starting, but not ending with her sister burning and/or censoring



LEFT: A letter from Jane to her sister Cassandra, written in 1814, and describing her brother Henry’s reaction to *Mansfield Park*. She remarks that he “understands” the characters and especially “likes” Fanny BELOW: A first-edition *Pride and Prejudice* set



anything in her letters that didn’t depict her as “dear, quiet Aunt Jane”. Given the candour of her novels, one can only pine for what might have been lost. In 1869, her nephew published his *Memoir of Jane Austen*, which, carefully sanitised, encouraged a po-faced late-Victorian readership to take a second look at her work. By 1900, a group calling themselves Janeites represented a snowballing passion for Austen that has rolled throughout the 20th century into the 21st.

Our modern world of leisurewear, jeans and dating apps still has a soft spot for bonnets, breeches and dance cards. 🔴

### GET HOOKED

#### EXHIBITION

*The Mysterious Miss Austen* exhibition at The Gallery, Winchester Discovery Centre runs until 24 July, where you can see six portraits of Jane all under one roof, along with her pelisse coat and purse. [www.janeausten200.co.uk](http://www.janeausten200.co.uk)

#### VISIT

Jane Austen’s House Museum in Chawton, Hampshire is currently running a special exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary – *Jane Austen in 41 Objects*. Find out more at [www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk](http://www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk)



#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is Jane Austen overrated? Was she a feminist?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## JANE AUSTEN’S WORLD

### 5 MUST-VISIT PLACES FROM THE NOVELS



#### Bath

The elegant city of Bath has long been a popular destination. In the Regency era, the city took on a new lease of life as a fashionable and social hub for the rich and famous – staying at the iconic Royal Crescent, and nattering about one another at the Assembly Rooms.



#### London

The bustle of the capital was attractive to many members of rural society. Known as going ‘into town’, London was a place where aspirational folk had the chance to mingle with the upper echelons of society. Much of the Georgian architecture still remains.



#### Derbyshire and the Peak District

Fresh air was important to the good health of wealthy people in Austen’s time, and the picturesque Peak District was the ideal place to get it. Littered with aristocratic mansions, the area is home to the legendary Mr Darcy.



#### Lyme Regis

The importance of seaside resorts was also growing throughout the era, and Jane Austen took two happy trips to this Dorset town. The harbour walls – known locally as ‘The Cobb’ – are the location of a pivotal scene in *Persuasion*. You can visit them today.



#### Hampshire

Austen’s home county is also the place where many of her characters live. The pleasant towns of the New Forest were ideal, as they were not too far-flung from London society or the naval city of Plymouth. Jane’s home in Chawton is now a museum and open to the public.





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# GROWING UP WITH THE TROUBLES

In the midst of devastating conflict and violence, the people of Northern Ireland still carried on – even as rubble, fire and bullets rained down around them

## AT A GLANCE

Northern Ireland had been a hotbed of pressure ever since it was separated from the Irish Free State in 1922. Seeking to stay that way, the largely Protestant Unionists (or Loyalists) swore allegiance to the United Kingdom. On the other side were the Republicans, who wished to reunite with Catholic Ireland. The split between the two groups divided the province of Ulster down the middle, and society became deeply segregated.



# THE SEEDS OF CONFLICT

A peaceful protest for Catholic civil rights takes a turn for the worse



## TAKING TO THE STREETS

Across Northern Ireland in the late 1960s, citizens protest against the religious discrimination that Catholics encounter in many aspects of life, such as housing and employment.

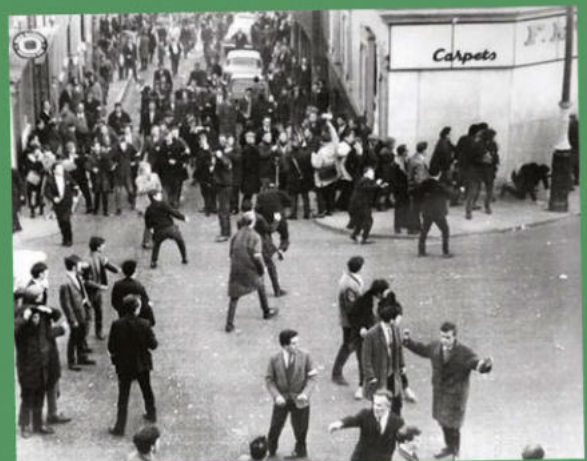


## CIVIL STRIFE

A young boy speaks calmly with a British soldier in Belfast, taking shelter behind a burnt-out car. In many cases, children found themselves in harm's way.

## POLICE BRUTALITY

In Derry/Londonderry, close to the border with the Republic of Ireland, violence breaks out in October 1968. Police surround the protestors, beat them and injure more than 100 people.



## RESTRICTED AREA

On one march on 2 November 1968, demonstrators are blocked from entering Derry city centre at Ferryquay Gate. Though the march was initially meant to consist of 15 people, over 2,000 attend.





### DIVIDED WE STAND

**MAIN:** A small boy named Paddy Coyle is poised with a Molotov cocktail at the ready. Wearing a gas mask to protect him, a badge of allegiance is clearly visible on his jacket. This image is now the subject of a famous mural in Derry.

**INSET:** Soldiers erect a barrier between the Catholic Falls Road area of Belfast and the Protestant neighbours. These so-called 'Peace Walls', which can be up to 25 feet high, still divide many neighbourhoods to this day.



**“THIS IS LIMBO LAND AT  
BEST, AND AT WORST  
THE COUNTRY OF  
THE DAMNED.”**

SEAMUS HEANEY, POET



# BATTLE OF THE BOGSIDE, 1969

Derry's mass rioting was seen as the first major conflict of the Troubles



## UP IN SMOKE

During August 1969, tensions between Catholics and the Ulster police culminated in the Battle of the Bogside. In this scene, riot police and protestors face off outside the Rossville flats, as fires rage from the improvised bombs hurled off the roof.



## CALL TO ARMS

Petrol bombs, stones and shrapnel are thrown at armoured police vehicles as protestors defend their barricade, using only dustbin lids to protect them from police bullets.



## STAGING AN INTERVENTION

British troops are sent in to stop the fighting, the first direct intervention by the British Army since the partition of Ireland in 1922.

## IN PICTURES THE TROUBLES

### LIFE GOES ON

TOP: A young man and a woman pass by a peace wall on Crumlin Road in Belfast. Red, white and blue bunting hangs on the Loyalist side of the street.  
MIDDLE: Catholic children are patted down and searched by a British soldier in case they are carrying weapons.  
BOTTOM: As they carry their shopping home, Belfast families walk past armed British soldiers, an increasingly common scene on the city's streets.







**PICK A SIDE**  
Women and children  
defy riot police and their  
shields as the violence  
escalates in 1971.

**"IF WE WANT TO REAP THE HARVEST OF  
PEACE AND JUSTICE, WE HAVE TO SOW  
THE SEEDS OF NONVIOLENCE"**

*MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE, PEACE ACTIVIST*



**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Belfast children sift through  
and play with the contents  
of hijacked lorries in the  
Falls Road area, a Republican  
stronghold in the city.

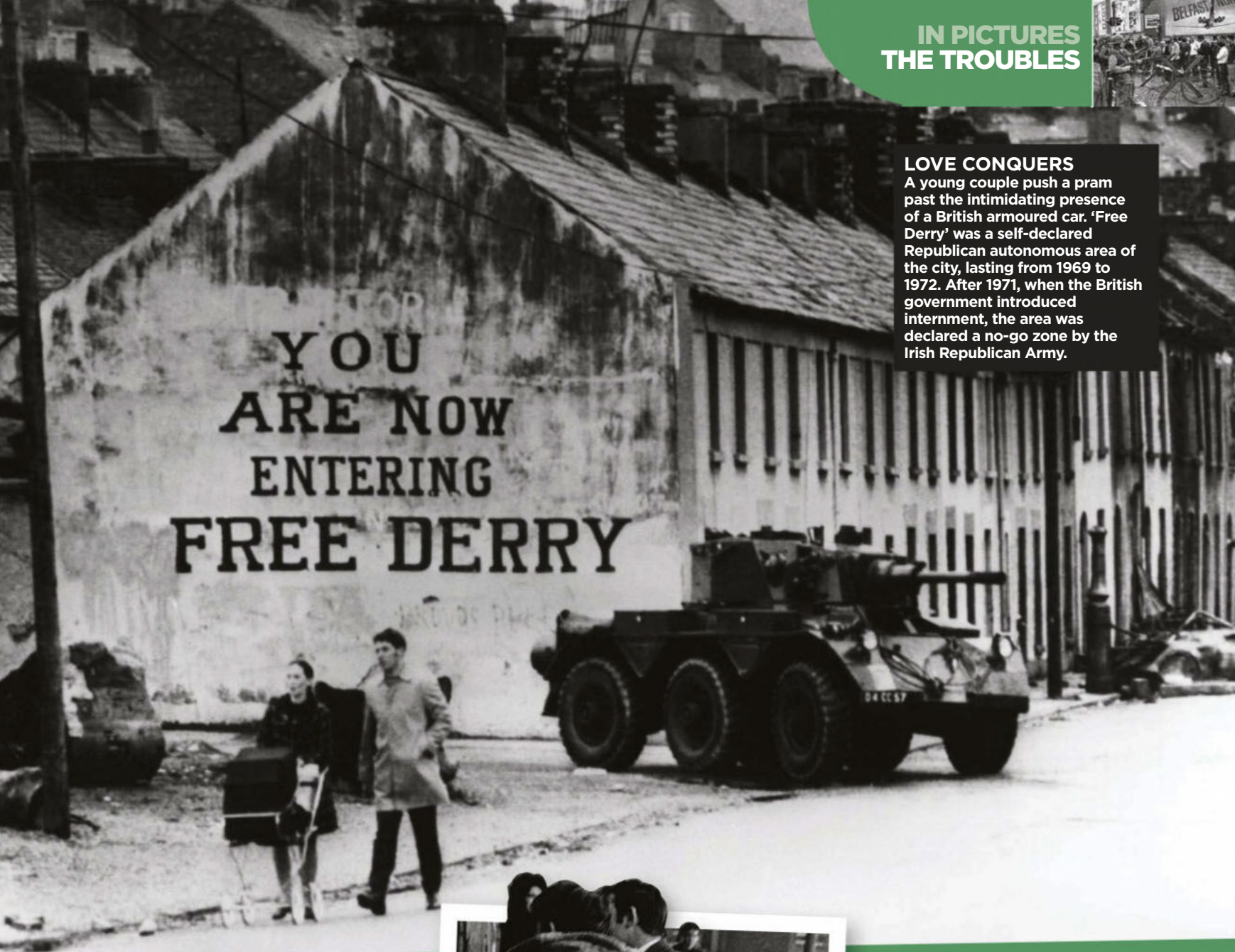
GILLES PERESS/MAGNUM PHOTOS XI, LEONARD FREED/MAGNUM PHOTOS XI, GETTY XI, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK XI, MARY EVANS XI





### LOVE CONQUERS

A young couple push a pram past the intimidating presence of a British armoured car. 'Free Derry' was a self-declared Republican autonomous area of the city, lasting from 1969 to 1972. After 1971, when the British government introduced internment, the area was declared a no-go zone by the Irish Republican Army.



## BLOODY SUNDAY

The horrors of the Bloody Sunday massacre accelerated the conflict



### MARCH FOR FREEDOM

What begins as a peaceful demonstration on 30 January 1972 ends in death when the 1st Parachute Regiment attacks protestors with rubber bullets, gas and water cannon.



### FIGHT OR FLIGHT

When some protestors throw stones at the paratroopers, they open fire. Many of those shot are running away from police, or trying to help others who have been wounded.



### REMAINS OF THE DAY

A total of 14 people (many of them teenagers) are killed by the armed forces. The incident causes international outcry, the British Embassy in Dublin is brought down, and support for the IRA increases dramatically.



# JOHN FRANKLIN

# MYSTERY, MADNESS & CANNIBALISM

During a desperate attempt to discover the Northwest Passage, an entire Royal Navy crew of 129 officers and men mysteriously disappeared. Amid claims of poisoning and cannibalism, **Pat Kinsella** separates fact from fiction



**“Ultimately, more  
people died during  
the search for  
Franklin and his crew  
than were lost in their  
initial disappearance”**

**WATERY  
GRAVE**

The wreck of  
Franklin's flagship,  
HMS *Erebus*, was  
discovered in  
2014, but it did  
little to reveal the  
fate of its crew





One of the world's most intriguing naval mysteries revolves around the fate of two ships – HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* – that disappeared in 1845, with the loss of all 129 crew, while on an expedition to find the fabled Northern Passage.

It was the biggest loss of life in the already-horror-sodden quest for the trade route, and the enigma has echoed through time, with the ghostly reemergence of the vessels in recent years, and voices from the dead forcing historians to revise their version of events not once, but twice.

The leader of the mission, the thrice-knighted Sir John Franklin, was so well regarded in naval circles he was promoted in absentia to the position of Rear-Admiral of the Blue in October 1852 – a full five years after he'd almost certainly died a terrible death a long way from home.

Franklin was 59 when he accepted the job of captaining the quest that had eluded some of Europe's greatest explorers, killing many of them. He had enjoyed a truly extraordinary career in the Royal Navy, having been present at the battles of Trafalgar and New Orleans, and had led numerous expeditions, including three into the Arctic.

So convinced were they of Franklin's survival capabilities, it took three years for the British to even begin looking for their lost hero, and even then, the search began and continued at the desperate behest of Franklin's heartbroken but tenacious wife.

Once it had started, though, driven partly by the dangling of a £20,000 reward and partly by the emotive efforts of Lady Franklin, the rescue effort went into overdrive, with ten British vessels and two American ships, USS *Advance* and USS *Rescue*, all suddenly heading for the Arctic. The hunt for clues continued for decades. Ultimately, more people died during the search for Franklin and his crew than were lost in their initial disappearance.

And when answers started coming back, they were not what polite English society wanted to hear – one member of that society in particular. Could it be true that the brutality of the Arctic had caused an expedition led by such an eminent figure as Sir John Franklin to descend into cannibalism?

## GRIM RITE OF PASSAGE

The discovery of the Northern Passage – a navigable sailing route linking the North Atlantic to the North Pacific, which would provide an umbilicus between Europe and the rich markets of the Orient, especially China, India and the Spice Islands – had been an obsession for three centuries by the time Sir John Franklin came on the scene.

At the beginning of that period, the Ottoman Empire had effectively closed off access to the Silk Road, and the Iberian powers were in control of the route south, around Africa. Events had shifted the focus back and forth over

## THE MAIN PLAYERS



### SIR JOHN FRANKLIN

A knight of three separate orders and recipient of the Gold Medal of the Société de Géographie, Franklin had an extraordinary naval career and was Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).



### JANE GRIFFIN

Better known as Lady Franklin, Sir John's redoubtable second spouse successfully led demands for an extensive search for her husband and his men after their disappearance, and dedicated the rest of her life to finding out his fate.



### CAPTAIN FRANCIS CROZIER

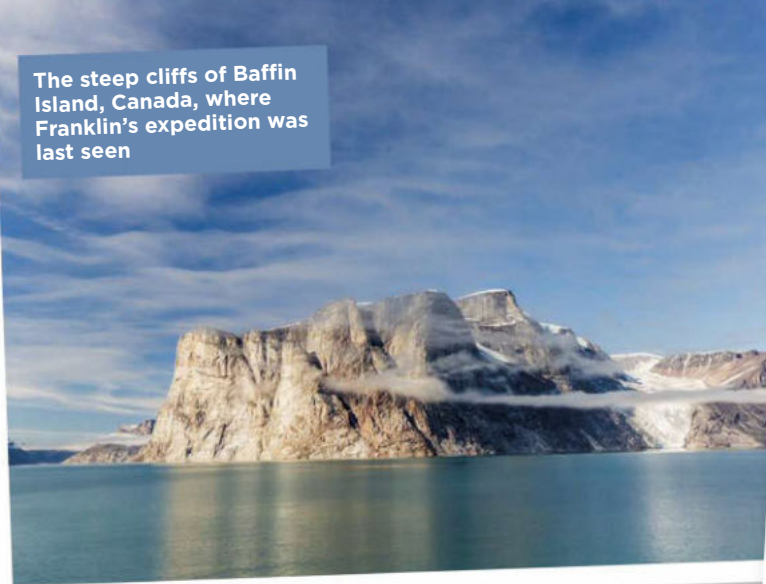
Crozier was a veteran of six exploratory expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. He was executive officer and commander of HMS *Terror* under Franklin, until taking over leadership of the expedition.



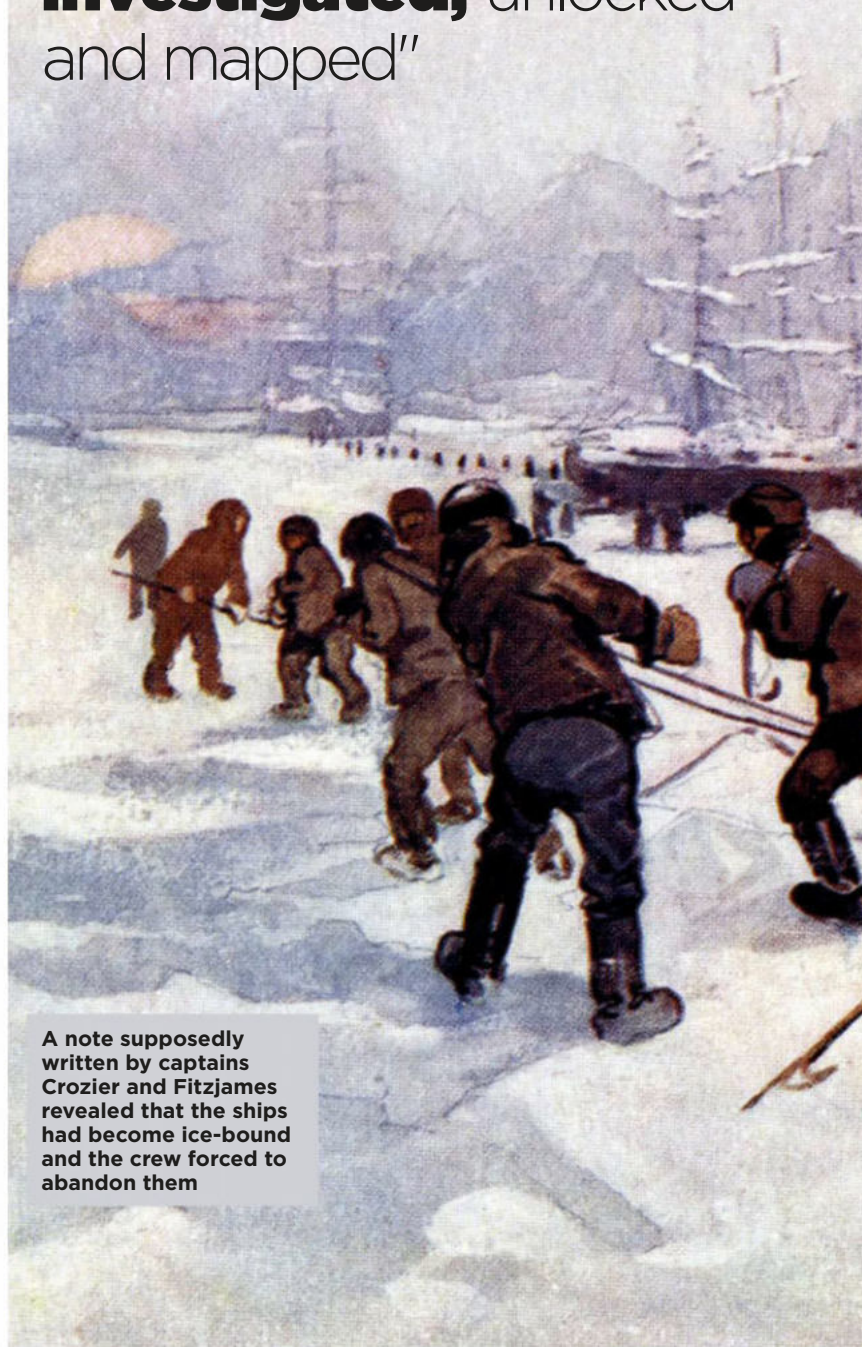
### CAPTAIN JAMES FITZJAMES

British naval officer and illegitimate son of Sir James Gambier. He was captain of HMS *Erebus* and, after the death of John Franklin, second-in-command to Captain Francis Crozier for the remainder of the expedition.

The steep cliffs of Baffin Island, Canada, where Franklin's expedition was last seen



**"Bit by frozen bit, the architecture of the Arctic was investigated, unlocked and mapped"**



A note supposedly written by captains Crozier and Fitzjames revealed that the ships had become ice-bound and the crew forced to abandon them





LEFT: The remains of a storehouse built by one of the search parties on Beechey Island  
RIGHT: A reward poster from 1849 offering £20,000 to any ship that rescues Franklin's crew from the ice

## £20,000 Sterling (100,000 DOLLARS) REWARD.

TO BE GIVEN by her Britannic Majesty's Government to such a private Ship, or distributed among such private Ships, of any Country, as may, in the judgment of the Board of Admiralty, have rendered efficient assistance to

**SIR JOHN FRANKLIN,**  
HIS SHIPS, or their Crews, and may have contributed directly to extricate them from the Ice.

**H. G. WARD,**  
SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY.  
LONDON, 10th MARCH, 1849.

The attention of WHALERS, or any other Ships disposed to aid in this service, is particularly directed to SMITH'S SOUND and JONES'S SOUND, in BAFFIN'S BAY, to REGENT'S INLET and the GULF of BOOTHBA, as well as to any of the Inlets or Channels leading out of BARROW'S STRAIT, or the Sea beyond, either Northward or Southward.

VESSELS Entering through BEHRING'S STRAITS would necessarily direct their search North and South of MELVILLE ISLAND.

NOTE.—Persons desirous of obtaining information relative to the Missing Expedition, which has not been heard of since JULY, 1845, are referred to:—ROBERTO & GILBERTSON, Esq., Royal Maritime Surveyor's Office, DARTON, SEABOARD-DEPOT, at ANTHONY BARCLAY, Esq., The Admiralty Office, NEW YORK.



ABOVE: A pair of snow goggles found on one of the boats  
RIGHT: The expedition's food supply may have been contaminated by the lead solder used to seal tins



# 1,000

The number of books contained in the libraries of the *Erebus* and *Terror*

time, but the need for a viable trading route to the East remained a huge priority for the increasingly powerful merchant classes in northern Europe, and for England and the Netherlands in particular.

But the fabled route proved more of a black hole than a golden promise, sucking expedition after expedition into a vortex of failure and death in the frozen wastelands of the Arctic. Most famously,

Henry Hudson's crew, unable to face another return to the Arctic, where they were horribly ill-equipped for the cruel conditions, mutinied and cast him adrift with his young son in 1611, never to be seen again. Many men would follow, yet explorers continued to feel their way through the ice pack, and expeditions were launched from both directions. Most tried to break through from the Atlantic and became lost in the immensity of Hudson Bay (which was finally proven to be a giant cul-de-sac by an overland expedition led by Samuel Hearne in the 1770s) or beaten back by ice in Baffin Bay.

But others went the long way around and tried to unlock the passage from the west, via the top of the Pacific. One such expedition was led by James Cook in 1776, the promise of £20,000 tempting him out of retirement. The passage eluded even the great captain, however, who was subsequently killed during a fracas

in Hawaii on his return route. George Vancouver, who'd accompanied Cook, returned in 1792 and spent two years exploring and charting the west coast of Canada, part of which now bears his name, and confirming that there was no way through south of the Bering Strait.

Bit by frozen bit, the architecture of the Arctic was investigated, unlocked and mapped, by explorers who travelled

by ship and overland, leaving their names all over pieces of the polar cap, but returning – if they came back at all – with no positive news about the passage. These men included James Clark Ross and John Franklin himself – who, by 1825, had just about survived three Arctic expeditions, after being forced to eat his own boots on one occasion.

## INTO THE ICE

Undeterred by the body count thus far, in the 1840s the British Admiralty decided to embark on a no-expenses-spared expedition to scour the remaining coast and uncover the route they remained convinced existed. Some corners were cut, however, including the commissioning of the company charged with preparing preserved canned food for the crew, who were engaged late, rushed the job and ended up supplying grub with a high lead content – a factor that may have had large consequences as the tragic tale unfolded.

Franklin's expedition set sail from England in May 1845, with a crew of 24 officers and 110 men split between his flag ship, HMS *Erebus*, commanded by Captain James Fitzjames, and HMS *Terror*, with Captain Francis Rawdon Moira Crozier at the helm. They travelled along the Scottish coast, from where they were accompanied to Greenland by HMS *Rattler* and



# GEOGRAPHY

Accounts of the expedition veer into the choppy waters of informed conjecture after it leaves Lancaster Sound, because no one lived to tell the tale. However, in 1859, an overland expedition discovered a scrawled note, dated 25 April 1848, which until recently has remained the biggest single clue to the fate of Franklin and his men. Historians have used this and other pieces of evidence to compile a jigsaw image of events ever since.

**1** 19 MAY 1845

## Greenhithe, England

Franklin's expedition sets sail, with four ships initially travelling up the coast of Scotland and stopping in Aberdeen and the Orkney Isles for supplies, before continuing to Greenland, where they prepare for their Arctic mission in Disko Bay.

**2** 26 JULY 1845

## Lancaster Sound, Qikiqtaaluk Region, in modern-day Nunavut, Canada

Franklin's expedition is last seen by Europeans here, between Devon Island and Baffin Island, with the *Terror* and *Erebus* sighted moored to an iceberg by Captain Dannet of the whaler *Prince of Wales*.

**3** WINTER 1845-46

## Beechey Island, near Resolute Bay, Nunavut, Canada

The expedition overwinters here, during which period three crewmen die and are buried on the island. Their graves are discovered in 1854

by the crew of the HMS *Investigator*, part of the search party.

**4** 11 JUNE 1847

## King William Island

The *Terror* and *Erebus* having been trapped in the ice since September 1846, Captain Franklin dies and Captain Crozier takes command, assisted by Captain Fitzjames.

**5** 22 APRIL 1848

## King William Island

According to a note found in a stone cairn at Victory Point on the northern part of the island, (dated 25 April), the *Erebus* and *Terror* were abandoned on 22 April, when the surviving men began a desperate walk south towards a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading outpost.

**6** SEPTEMBER 2016

## Terror Bay, southwest coast of King William Island

With another expedition having located the wreck of the *Erebus* two years earlier, the Arctic Research Foundation expedition announces that it has found the remains of HMS *Terror* in Terror Bay, some 60 miles distant to where it was last placed.

John Franklin's memorial stone on Beechey Island





The McClintock Search Expedition opens a cairn to discover the note from Crozier and Fitzjames



This piece of paper, known as the Victory Point Note, revealed some scant details about what happened to Franklin

11

Years that the official search for the lost men continued

◀ a transport ship, *Barretto Junior*. On the Whale Fish Islands in Disko Bay, on Greenland's west coast, more provisions were taken on board and then the *Rattler* and *Barretto Junior* left for home, bearing the men's last letters for loved ones. Also on board were five members of the crew, dismissed by the prudish Franklin, who had banned not just drunkenness, but also bad language on his ships. Those men would have plenty to thank their foulmouthed ways for in the fullness of time.

The Franklin expedition met two whaling boats in late July 1845, with Captain Dannet of the *Prince of Wales* and Captain Robert Martin from the *Enterprise* reporting encounters with the *Erebus* and *Terror*, as they lay tethered to an iceberg in Baffin Bay, waiting for good conditions to cross to Lancaster Sound. This was the last time the men would be seen, at least by European eyes.

A scribbled note found in 1859 by an overland expedition, stuffed in a stone cairn at Victory Point on northern King William Island, signed by captains Crozier and Fitzjames and dated 25 April 1848, goes some way to explaining what happened next.

## CANNIBALISM & CALAMITY

The expedition sat out the worst of the severe Arctic winter on Beechey Island, where some of the crew quickly began to feel the effects of polar exploration and the desperate deprivation it involves – or perhaps they were just suffering from lead poisoning from their dodgy canned food, as modern toxicological reports suggest.

The first to die were three young crewmen – John Hartnell, John Torrington and William Braine – whose graves were discovered on the island by a long-overdue rescue party aboard the HMS *Investigator* in 1854. Their remains are still preserved in the permafrost, alongside the body of Thomas Morgan, a member of the crew who had been searching for them.

Crozier and Fitzjames's note revealed that the *Erebus* and *Terror* became ice-bound on King

William Island in September 1846, and that Franklin had died on 11 June 1847. The letter described how both boats had finally been abandoned on 22 April 1848, and that “the officers and crews, consisting of 105 souls”, were under the command of the highly experienced Crozier. Their plan, after leaving the message at the cairn, was to start walking along ‘Back’s Great Fish River’ (now known as Back River), heading south to seek safety at a remote Hudson’s Bay Company fur trading outpost. And that informed the long-accepted narrative, which ends with the presumed demise of all remaining men during a terrible death march. Except new evidence found down the years, most recently in 2016, suggests several twists.

Amid all the searches that belatedly took place, and continued for decades, finding scraps of evidence here and there, one of the best clues to the fate of Crozier’s surviving men was supplied in 1854, via eye-witness evidence from Inuit hunters interviewed by Scottish explorer Dr John Rae.

In one account, Inuit people reported entering a trapped and abandoned ship to discover a dead man sat bolt upright in a dark room, with a big smile on his face – the expression is thought to be down to the effect of scurvy. They also mentioned that one of the ship’s ‘masts’ was on fire, and there has been speculation that this suggests the remaining crew had only just left the vessel, after cooking a last meal.

A second story, though, was even more controversial. The Inuit, who had trinkets from the expedition to back up their claims, relayed to Rae that they had observed the surviving crew setting off overland, but they were quickly felled by cold and hunger. The next time they saw them, the crew were corpses, bearing

obvious signs of cannibalism.

Rae’s report, intended only for the Admiralty, fell into the public domain, causing shock and horror. Franklin’s widow was incensed at the slur on her husband’s name – even though Franklin himself would have been long dead by the time any cannibalism occurred – and the unfortunate doctor was initially sidelined by the establishment. Decades later, marks on the bones of bodies suggest that

the Inuit account was at least partly accurate. But this mystery has an intriguing postscript, which may in fact change the last chapter of the accepted story altogether.

On 9 September 2014, a Canadian expedition revealed that they had discovered a wreck in Queen Maud Gulf, west of O’Reilly Island, which was subsequently proven to be that of HMS *Erebus*. Almost exactly two years later, on 12 September 2016, the Arctic Research Foundation expedition announced that they had found a second wreck, believed to be HMS *Terror*, just south of King William Island in Terror Bay. The vessel was in virtually pristine condition, preserved by the frigid embrace of the Arctic. But instead of solving the mystery, these finds only deepened the enigma.

The *Terror* is lying 60 miles south of where all experts expected it to be, and it looked as though it had been closed down before it sank. And this raises an interesting prospect. Instead of slowly succumbing to death during a long, futile walk, did Crozier and his crew change their plan, reboarding the *Erebus* when the ice relinquished her, and making an attempt to sail home, before some other calamity sent them to the ocean floor? We may never know. 📍

## GET HOOKED

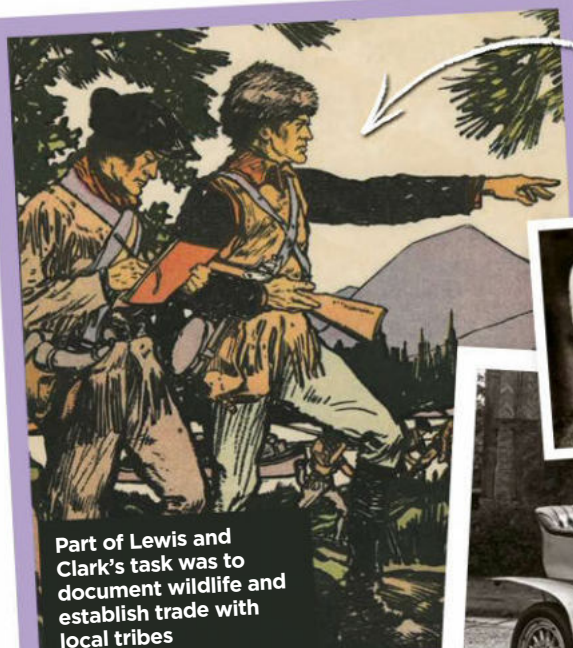
### EXHIBITION: DEATH IN THE ICE

From 14 July, the National Maritime Museum will host a major exhibition exploring the fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew. With over 200 objects on display, the exhibition promises to advance our understanding of the expedition, reveal the Victorian fascination with the Arctic, and answer questions about what may have happened. [www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/franklin-death-in-the-ice](http://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/franklin-death-in-the-ice)



# Greatest partnerships

Sometimes, when two individuals collide, magic happens...



Part of Lewis and Clark's task was to document wildlife and establish trade with local tribes

## LEWIS & CLARK

HEROIC NEW WORLD EXPLORERS

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark met in 1803 as two of the "nine young men" enlisted by President Thomas Jefferson for his Corps of Discovery expedition, which would explore the Missouri River and find a direct route to the Pacific. They set off for the adventure of a lifetime, exploring the Rocky Mountains and discovering 300 species unknown to science, encountering 50 Native American tribes (not all were friendly), and surviving a grizzly bear attack. Given up for dead, when they finally returned home in 1806, they were welcomed as heroes.

Lewis was leader of the expedition, having previously risen through the army to the position of captain



Together, Royce (above left) and Rolls produced the Silver Ghost



## ROLLS & ROYCE

DRIVING AMBITION

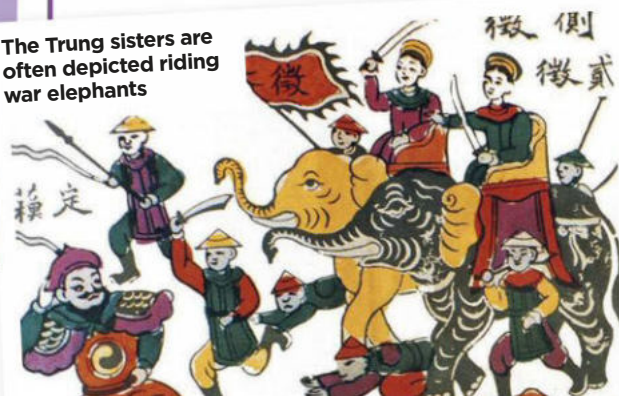
Engineer Frederick Henry Royce built his first motor car in 1904. Later that year, he was introduced to Charles Rolls. It was a match made in motoring heaven. Rolls had a company that sold quality cars in London, and an agreement was swiftly reached that Royce Limited would manufacture a range of cars to be exclusively sold by CS Rolls & Co, bearing the name Rolls-Royce. Success led to the formation of the Rolls-Royce company in March 1906 and the launch of the Silver Ghost, hailed as "the best car in the world". The partnership ended in 1910, when Rolls died after the tail of his Wright Flyer plane broke off.

## TRUNG & TRUNG

VIETNAMESE SISTERS DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

The triumphant Trung sisters led the first national uprising against the harsh rule of the Chinese in Vietnam in AD 39. Trung Trac, along with her younger sibling Trung Nhi, gathered an army of 80,000, choosing 36 women, including their mother, to be trained as generals. These fearless women led the Trung forces to victory, driving the Chinese from their lands... for the time being, at least.

The Trung sisters are often depicted riding war elephants



## FRED & GINGER

THE GREATEST DANCERS

'Top Hat, White Tie and Tails' and 'The Way You Look Tonight' are just two of the song-and-dance numbers starring Hollywood golden couple Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The pair made ten movies together and each was a box-office smash. Such was the pursuit of perfection that one scene in *Swing Time* required 47 takes. By the end, Rogers' feet were bleeding. Critics hailed it "the greatest dancing in the history of the universe".

*Top Hat* was the pair's most successful film



In total, Laurel and Hardy appeared as a team in 107 films







## LAUREL & HARDY

### HOLLYWOOD COMEDY GREATS

Mad bowler hatters Stan Laurel – the thin one from Lancashire, UK – and Oliver Hardy – the fat one from Georgia, USA – were both talented film actors and, by 1926, part of the Roach Comedy All Stars. Their teaming-up was suggested by supervising director Leo McCarey, and he and Laurel jointly devised the duo's format. Their highly visual, slapstick style of comedy – usually revolving around an argument that prevented the hapless pair from completing the simplest task – provided the perfect transition for silent-movie-era cinema audiences still adapting to talkies. Once paired, they played the same characters for 30 years – with Hardy uttering his famous catchphrase: "Here's another nice mess you've gotten me into" while Laurel cried and ruffled his hair.

## ANTHONY & STANTON

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS TRAILBLAZERS

After being introduced by Amelia Bloomer in 1851, Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton revolutionised the political and social condition of American women. They formed the National Woman Suffrage Association, travelled widely promoting divorce reform, birth control and women's rights, and jointly published a woman's newspaper, *The Revolution*.

Stanton was a mother of seven, and Anthony would often look after her children, allowing Stanton to write

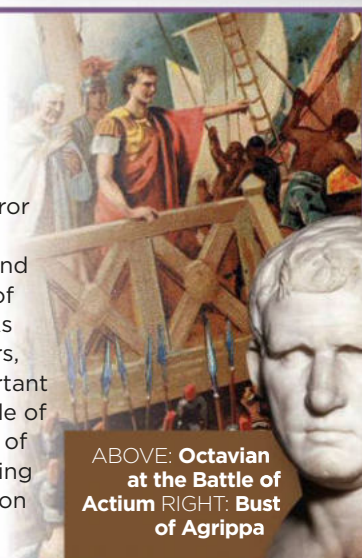


Stanton (left) and Anthony were close friends until the very end

## OCTAVIAN & AGRIPPA

### CLEANING UP ROME'S ACT

Without Agrippa, Octavian would never have become the first emperor of Rome. He became Octavian's companion and right-hand man (and later son-in-law) around the time of Julius Caesar's murder in 44 BC. As one of his key military commanders, Agrippa was responsible for important victories, most notably at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC against the forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra, enabling Octavian to fend off the competition and take the Empire's helm.



ABOVE: Octavian at the Battle of Actium RIGHT: Bust of Agrippa

## NICCOLÒ & MAFFEO POLO

### CHINA'S FIRST EUROPEAN VISITORS

In the late 1250s, Venetian traders Niccolò and Maffeo Polo (the father and uncle of the more famous Marco) set off for a trading mission to Constantinople. After residing in the busy capital for several years, they decided to continue further into Asia, where they received an invitation to meet Mongol leader Kublai Khan. They became among the first Westerners to travel the Silk Road.

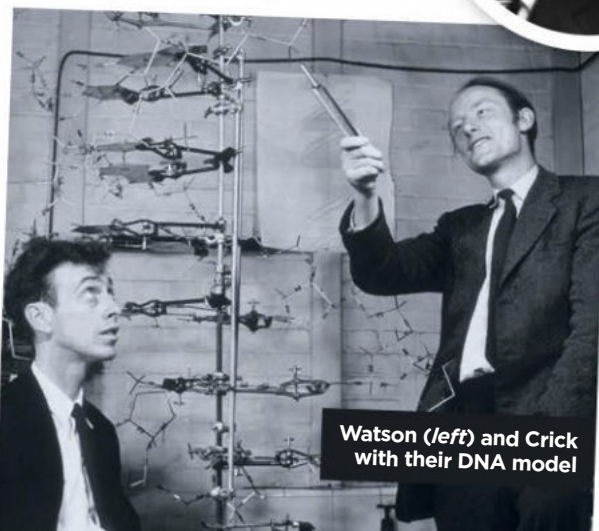


Niccolò and Maffeo in the court of Kublai Khan

## WATSON & CRICK

### SCIENTISTS HAVE IT IN THEIR DNA

Francis Crick studied physics at University College London, developed mines for the Admiralty during World War II, switched physics for biology and, in 1947, began to work at the University of Cambridge. By 1949, he was working at the Medical Research Council and was joined, in 1951, by an American student, James Watson. The two began to study the structure of DNA. In April 1953, they published news of their discovery – the double helix, a molecular structure that explains how DNA replicates and how hereditary information is coded on it. One of the most significant scientific discoveries of the 20th century, this paved the way for rapid advances in molecular biology and bagged them a Nobel Prize.



Watson (left) and Crick with their DNA model

MAIN: A Marks & Spencer 'penny bazaar', circa 1900 BELOW: Marks (left) and Spencer



## MARKS & SPENCER

### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO HOUSEHOLD NAME

While looking for work, Polish refugee Michael Marks met Isaac Jowitt Dewhirst, who lent him £5 to set up a stall on Kirkgate Market, Leeds, with the slogan: "Don't ask the price, it's a penny". Dewhirst's cashier was Tom Spencer, a bookkeeper, whose wife, Agnes, helped Marks improve his English. In 1894, when Marks opened his first shop, he invited Spencer to become his partner. In 1904, the first Marks & Spencer hit the highstreet and by 1926 was a public company.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which dynamic duo should have made our list? Let us know!

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)





#### **FIREFIGHT**

Monmouth wanted his men to rush the royalist camp, but in fact they stopped and opened fire.

#### **MATCHLOCK**

The musket was fired by depressing the trigger to bring a piece of smouldering match in contact with some gunpowder in the musket's pan. The resulting flash ignited the main gunpowder charge in the musket, causing an explosion that propelled the musket ball out of the barrel.

# Night attack

The defeat of the Duke of Monmouth's rebel army at Sedgemoor in Somerset was the last major battle on English soil. **Julian Humphrys** tells more

**T**here was no moon and the fields of Sedgemoor were shrouded with fog, but had you been there that night you would have soon realised that something was afoot. From time to time, the moor echoed with the sound of hoofbeats as small groups of horsemen rode urgently to and fro, while those with sharp eyes might have just caught a glimpse through the mist of the packed ranks of thousands of men shuffling quietly along. An army was on the move and, although nobody knew it at the time, the ensuing clash of arms would be the last major battle to be fought on English soil.





**UNPLEASANT SURPRISE**  
Although Monmouth's daring night attack caught his enemies by surprise, the royalists reacted quickly and won the ensuing battle



## KING MONMOUTH

James Scott, Duke of Monmouth was the natural son of Charles II and Lucy Walter and was conceived during the king's exile in the Netherlands in 1649. After Charles's restoration he was introduced to court, created Duke of Monmouth and later married off to Anne Scott, the wealthy Countess of Buccleuch. Monmouth was affable and good looking but not particularly bright. It is said that at the age of nine he could still barely read and even at the age of 15, writing a letter would make him "sigh and sweat". He was, however, a capable soldier and his Protestant faith and royal blood made him an attractive figurehead for those who wanted to overthrow the Catholic James II.

82

The number of supporters who landed with Monmouth at Lyme Regis

When James II became king in 1685, many people in England believed that his Catholic faith represented a threat to the Protestant Church of England, and thought that a rising in the name of Charles II's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, might attract enough support to overthrow him. So, while the Earl of Argyll set off to raise a rebellion against James in Scotland, Monmouth landed at Lyme Regis on 11 June and rounded up 300 men. Monmouth had always been popular in the West Country, and by the time he reached Taunton a week later, 5,000 men had joined him. But

he'd been hoping for many more and, worryingly, very few gentry and only one peer (Lord Grey) had rallied to his cause. Planning to establish control in the southwest before marching on London, Monmouth headed for Bristol, where he hoped to pick up reinforcements and supplies. But as he approached the city, he discovered that Lord Feversham, the commander of forces loyal to James II, had got there first. He fell back to Bath, but it too refused to let him in. Although his men got the better of the advance guard of Feversham's army at Philips Norton (now

### BATTLE CONTEXT

#### Where

Sedgemoor, Somerset

#### When

5-6 July 1685

#### Why

Duke of Monmouth's bid to replace James II as king

#### Who

Royalists (Earl of Feversham)  
c3,000

Rebels (Duke of Monmouth) c4,000

#### Result

Crushing royalist victory

#### Losses

Royalists c200 killed and wounded  
Rebels c1300 killed





## BATTLEFIELD SEDGEMOOR 5-6 JULY 1685

◀ Norton St Philip) on 27 June, Monmouth felt unable to follow up his success and on the following day, he received devastating news – Argyll's rebellion in Scotland had been crushed. Monmouth was on his own, and as morale among his supporters plummeted, his troops began to desert. The dispirited Duke pulled back to Bridgwater. By now, the royal army was approaching. On 5 July, it arrived at Westonzoyland, about three miles south-east of Bridgwater, and set up camp for the night. Unwilling to face a siege, and knowing that his untrained troops would be no match for Feversham's regulars in a set-piece battle, Monmouth decided to risk all in a surprise night attack.

But it was an attack with a twist. Instead of taking the direct route down the main road from Bridgwater, he would lead his army out to the east, skirt round the village of Chedzoy where royal troops were known to be based, and then turn south across the fields of Sedgemoor, thus approaching the royal camp on its least defended side. The plan was that his cavalry would charge into the camp and scatter the royalist infantry, enabling his own infantry to follow up and take advantage of the confusion.

### INTO THE DARKNESS

At about 10pm on Sunday 5 July, Monmouth's army set off along the Bristol road under strict orders of silence. The hooves of their horses were muffled with rags, and one gun that developed a squeaky wheel was unceremoniously dumped in a ditch. Meanwhile,

across the mist-shrouded moor, Feversham's men slumbered in their tents outside the village of Westonzoyland. His six battalions of regular infantry, 1,900 men in all, were camped behind a wide, shallow drainage ditch called the Bussex Rhyne – space had been left between the tents and the ditch to allow the soldiers to form up in the event of an attack. Most of Feversham's men were expecting a quiet night, but according to one source, one officer at least was taking no chances:

"Only Captain Mackintosh (an officer in Dumbarton's Regiment) believed overnight, and

would have ventured wagers on it, that the Duke would come. He, in that persuasion, marked out the ground between the tents and the ditch where his men should stand in case of an attack, and gave directions that all should be in readiness; and it was well he did so, for his regiment being in the right wing was the first to receive the first assault..."

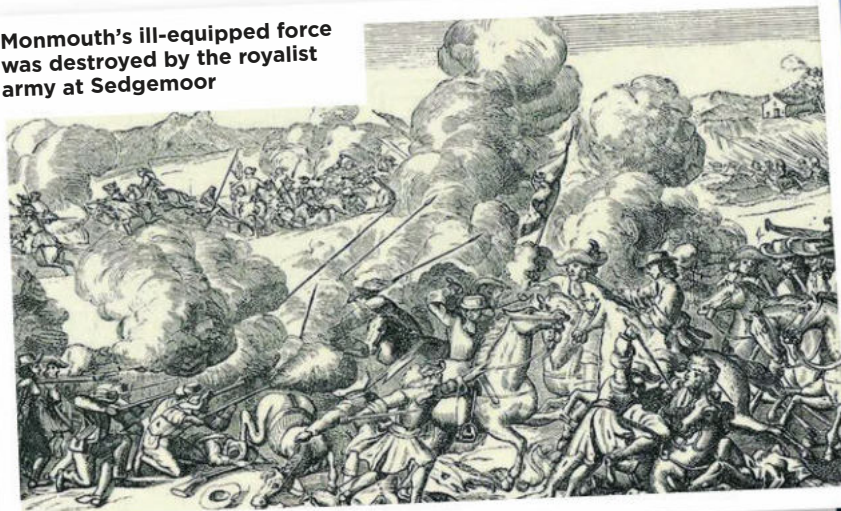
Feversham completed his deployments by quartering the bulk of his cavalry in Westonzoyland village and setting up his guns facing west along the Bridgwater road, the most obvious route for a rebel attack. Meanwhile, detachments of cavalry and infantry were stationed at various locations across the moor to guard against any nasty surprises, while patrols were sent out to look for the enemy. It looked as though Feversham had covered every eventuality, but at first the rebels' luck held and they managed to avoid being spotted as they

# 500

Rebels were locked up in Westonzoyland Church

RUSTY ALDWINCKLE/SEALED KNOT X 2, ALAMY X1, GETTY X1

**Monmouth's ill-equipped force was destroyed by the royalist army at Sedgemoor**



## CROSSING THE RHYNE

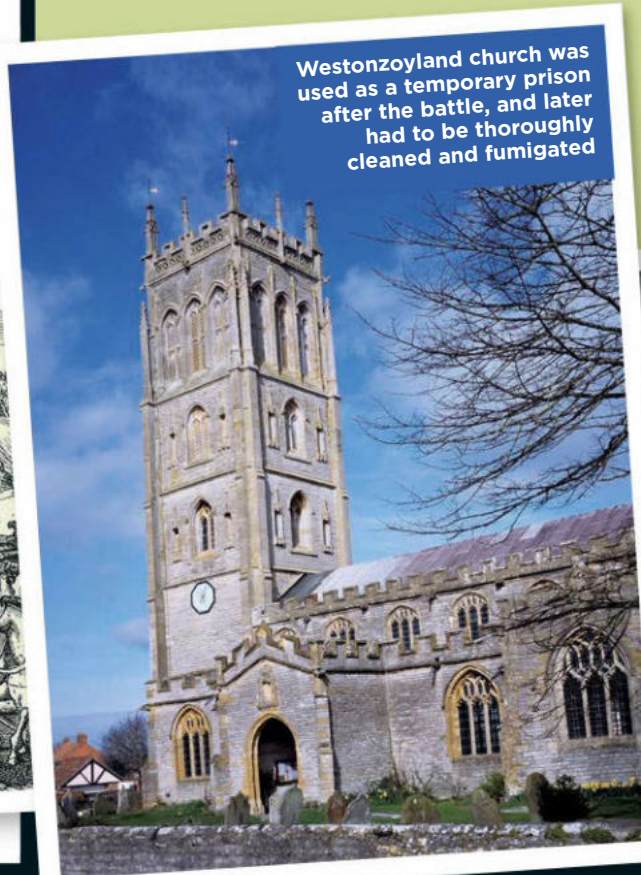
In a bid to catch the Royalist army by surprise, the Duke of Monmouth didn't launch his attack along the obvious route – the main road from Bridgwater. Instead, he led his army north-eastwards past Chedzoy and then swung south to approach

the royalist camp from an unexpected direction.

At first he managed to dodge the royalist cavalry patrols, but his army was eventually discovered as it tried to cross one of the rhynes, or drainage ditches, on the moor.



Westonzoyland church was used as a temporary prison after the battle, and later had to be thoroughly cleaned and fumigated





# WEAPONS AND WARRIORS

The Battle of Sedgemoor pitted the Duke of Monmouth's hastily raised and ill-equipped force against the professional soldiers of the Earl of Feversham's royalist army

## ROYALISTS

Feversham's army was largely made up of red-coated professionals, although soldiers from part-time local militias were also mobilised for the campaign. One regiment, the Queen's Regiment, were veterans of the defence of Tangier, England's first colony. Commanded by Percy Kirke they brought with them a brutal approach to warfare that came as a nasty shock to the people of the South West. By 1685 some of Feversham's men had replaced their old-fashioned matchlock muskets with flintlocks.

### EMBROIDERED CAP

The mark of a Grenadier, it's embroidered with monogram 'JR' for *Jacobus Rex*, the Latin for 'King James'.

### GRENADIER

By the end of the 17th century, each infantry regiment had a company of grenadiers who took their name from the small iron bombs with which they were equipped. Because they needed both hands free to light the grenade's fuse they slung their muskets over their shoulders. The broad-brimmed hats normally worn by infantrymen made this difficult, so grenadiers wore cloth or fur caps which in time grew into large mitre caps (pictured here) or the bearskins the Queen's Guards wear today. Grenadiers tended to be the biggest and toughest men in a regiment – and were normally considerably younger than the re-enactors depicting them here!

### FLINTLOCK

With a flintlock musket, the gunpowder was ignited by the spark caused when a spring-loaded flint hit a piece of steel.

### BAYONET

These early bayonets were plugged into the barrel of the soldier's musket. This meant the musket couldn't be fired once it was fitted.

## REBELS

Monmouth's Rising has gone down in history as the 'Pitchfork Rebellion' but his soldiers weren't the smock-wearing yokels of popular imagination. Many were artisans – clothmakers and weavers who'd recently been hard hit by economic depression while others were religious non-conformists who were suffering increasing persecution under the Stuarts. While many had pikes and muskets, some were equipped with converted agricultural tools like scythes – far from ideal in a conventional battle but potentially devastating in the kind of confused night fighting Monmouth was hoping to initiate at Sedgemoor.







## BATTLEFIELD SEDGEMOOR 5-6 JULY 1685



Many of the rebels were hanged from trees along the Bridgwater to Glastonbury road



Jeffreys was captured while disguised as a sailor and imprisoned in the Tower of London

stealthily made their way across the dark and foggy moor.

But when they reached the Langmoor Rhyne, one of the drainage ditches that crossed Sedgemoor, disaster struck – their guide couldn't find the way across. As he frantically searched for the bridge, Monmouth's men milled about, only too aware that every minute they spent there increased their chances of being found by Feversham's patrols. Eventually, their guide located the elusive crossing, but as Monmouth's regiments filed across, they were spotted by a royalist scout. Firing a warning shot into the air, he galloped back to Westonzoyland repeatedly shouting "Beat your drums, the enemy is come. For the Lord's sake, beat your drums."

Monmouth had lost the element of surprise he so badly needed but, even so, all was not yet lost. The royal camp was now less than a mile away, and if his cavalry could get there before Feversham's soldiers could deploy, the battle could still be won. Led by

many of Grey's untrained horses to bolt. A small group of rebel horsemen did manage to find a way across, but were driven back by a party of royalist horse. By now,

Monmouth's infantry was arriving on the scene.

Their best hope was to press on, but they hesitated, stopped and began to open fire.

For more than two hours, the two armies exchanged volleys, the darkness only broken by the

750

Number of rebels transported to the West Indies after the battle

## "Monmouth had lost the element of surprise he so badly needed"

Lord Grey, the main body of the rebel horse charged forward, only to encounter the Bussex Rhyne, which only had two crossing points. Unable to find a way across in the darkness, Grey's men rode along the rhyne and when the royalist infantry realised who they were, they opened fire, causing

flashes of muskets being fired.

Some of Feversham's army was equipped with the new flintlock muskets, but Dumbarton's Regiment on the royalist right still had old-fashioned matchlocks, and the glowing ends of the match they used to fire their weapons

marked out where they stood, making them an obvious target for Monmouth's men and the three guns they had brought with them. The regiment suffered heavy losses, but it was only a matter of time before the superior training and weaponry of the royal army began to tell. John Churchill, Feversham's second-in-command, reorganised the royal lines, sending units from the left to help Dumbarton's beleaguered men on the right. The royalist artillery was moved across as well, and Peter Mews,

the Bishop of Winchester, who was accompanying the royal army, provided horses from his carriage to help pull them into place.

As dawn began to break, the royal cavalry crossed the Bussex Rhyne to threaten the flanks of the rebel army, and when daylight arrived and Feversham could see what was happening, he ordered his infantry across the rhyne, which turned out to be less of an obstacle than everyone had thought, and Monmouth's men broke completely.

The royalist pursuit was relentless. Over 1,000 rebels were killed, others were hanged on the spot. Most of the rest had to await the tender mercies of Judge Jeffreys' Bloody Assizes. Ⓢ

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

The rebellion had been crushed and, for now at least, James's reign was secure. Monmouth was captured and brought before the King, who was unmoved by his nephew's pleas for mercy. On 15 July 1685, Monmouth was beheaded on Tower Hill. It is said that the executioner took several blows of the axe to sever his head, and had to finish off the job with a knife. However, in 1688, James would be overthrown in what became known as the Glorious Revolution, and replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William.



The Duke of Monmouth pleads for his life before King James II

## GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

## VISIT

A new exhibition in St Mary's Church, Westonzoyland tells the story of the battle.  
[www.zoylandheritage.co.uk](http://www.zoylandheritage.co.uk)



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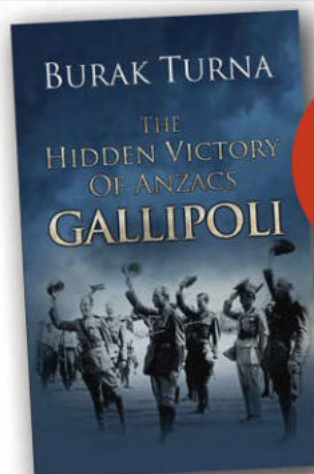
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WILD WEST  
PIONEERS OF  
DISCOVERY

# WILD WEST PIONEERS OF DISCOVERY

Not every advance in the Wild West was fashioned by a six-shooter. Some of its most colourful characters were actually pushing the frontiers of discovery rather than holding up stagecoaches. **Jamie Flook** saddles up and heads for the real Old West



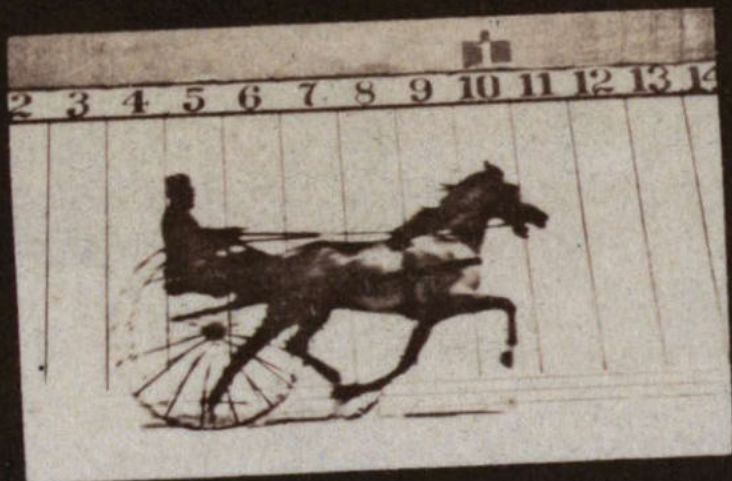


## WAGONS ROLL!

It wasn't just gold prospectors and gunslingers who headed out across the plains to settle in the Old West. Men and women of science made the journey too



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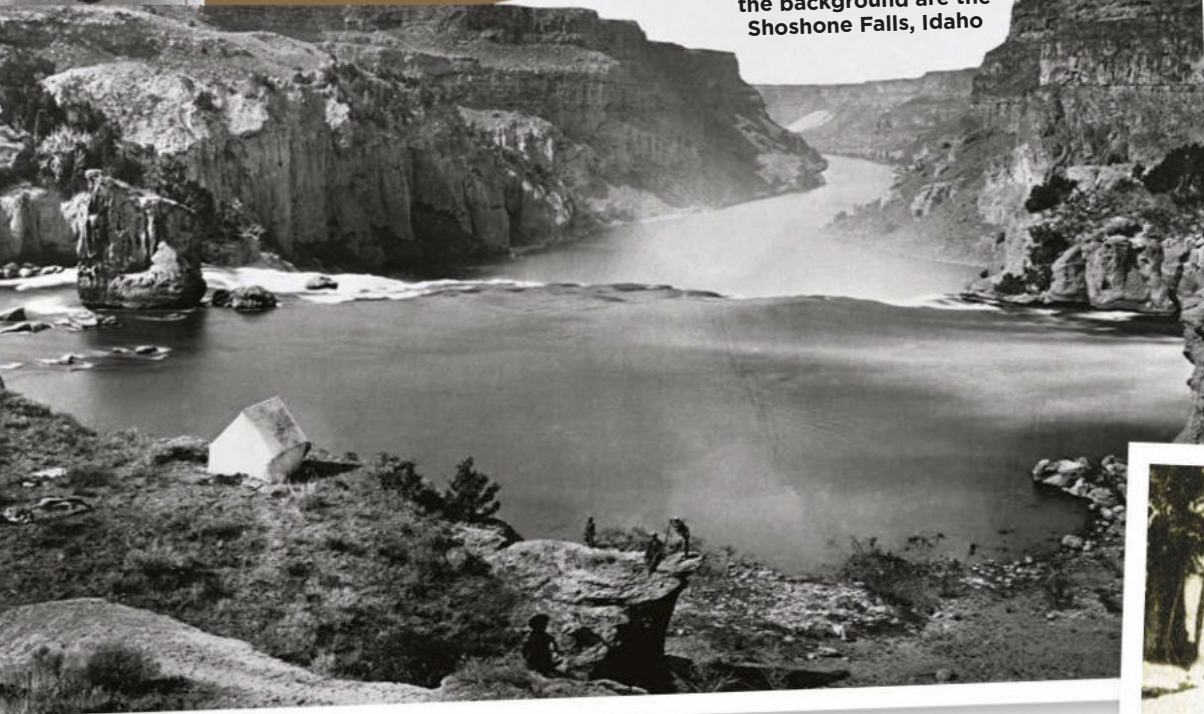






## WILD WEST PIONEERS OF DISCOVERY

Members of Clarence King's Geological Exploration survey the territory from a rock. In the background are the Shoshone Falls, Idaho



MAIN: King makes camp in Salt Lake City, Utah  
BELOW: King on a research trip with his mercury barometer over his shoulder



**T**he modern American West is one of the world's great centres for scientific activity. Silicon Valley in California, for example, has long been home to the innovators of the information age. But when we think of the West of old, we tend to think of gunfights, cattle rustling, stagecoach robberies and all manner of other curiosities. However, alongside the outlaws, gunslingers, gold prospectors and saloon owners were pioneers of a different kind. As well as its legendary love affair with criminality and violence, the Wild West was a hotbed of scientific discovery, with characters every bit as adventurous as their gun-toting counterparts.

### BOLD EXPLORER

One such individual was geologist Clarence King, who studied physics, geology and applied chemistry at Yale. He's been described as the

Indiana Jones of the geological world and it's easy to see why. King made his name exploring the Sierra Nevada, becoming the first person to scale some of the region's mountain peaks, and would go on to become the first director of the United States Geological Survey.

King was a geek with a penchant for flamboyance, which was evidenced by the way he dressed, wearing tight-fitting deer-skin trousers and violet-coloured gloves. This is a man who attracted attention whether he wanted it or not; he stared death in the face a number of times.

He once survived being chased for two days on horseback by Mexican bandits, as well as an incident in a cave where it's reported he came face to face with a grizzly bear. The story goes that the geologist was exploring a cave

while surveying in Nevada and the grizzly bear wandered in, whereupon the animal was promptly shot by King.

In 1862, while hunting in Nebraska, King's horse was killed by a herd of buffalo, causing it to collapse on top of him, crushing his leg in the process. The following year, an unarmed King was drinking in a saloon in El Dorado County, when a drunk approached his table and threatened to shoot the young scientist. King put his hand in his trouser pocket and used his thumb to create the shape of the muzzle of a gun whilst snapping a toothpick he had in the same pocket to mimic the sound of a gun being cocked. The drunk then ran away.

That same year, King was arrested for kidnapping three black people and selling them into slavery, but was released when he was found to not be the guilty party. In the summer of 1865, King survived numerous bouts of malaria but his greatest escape was yet to come.

In 1866, he was leading a cavalry unit on a survey through Arizona, riding some distance in front with a colleague when they came across an Apache tribe who took a dislike to King and

## ANTHROPOLOGY ALICE FLETCHER

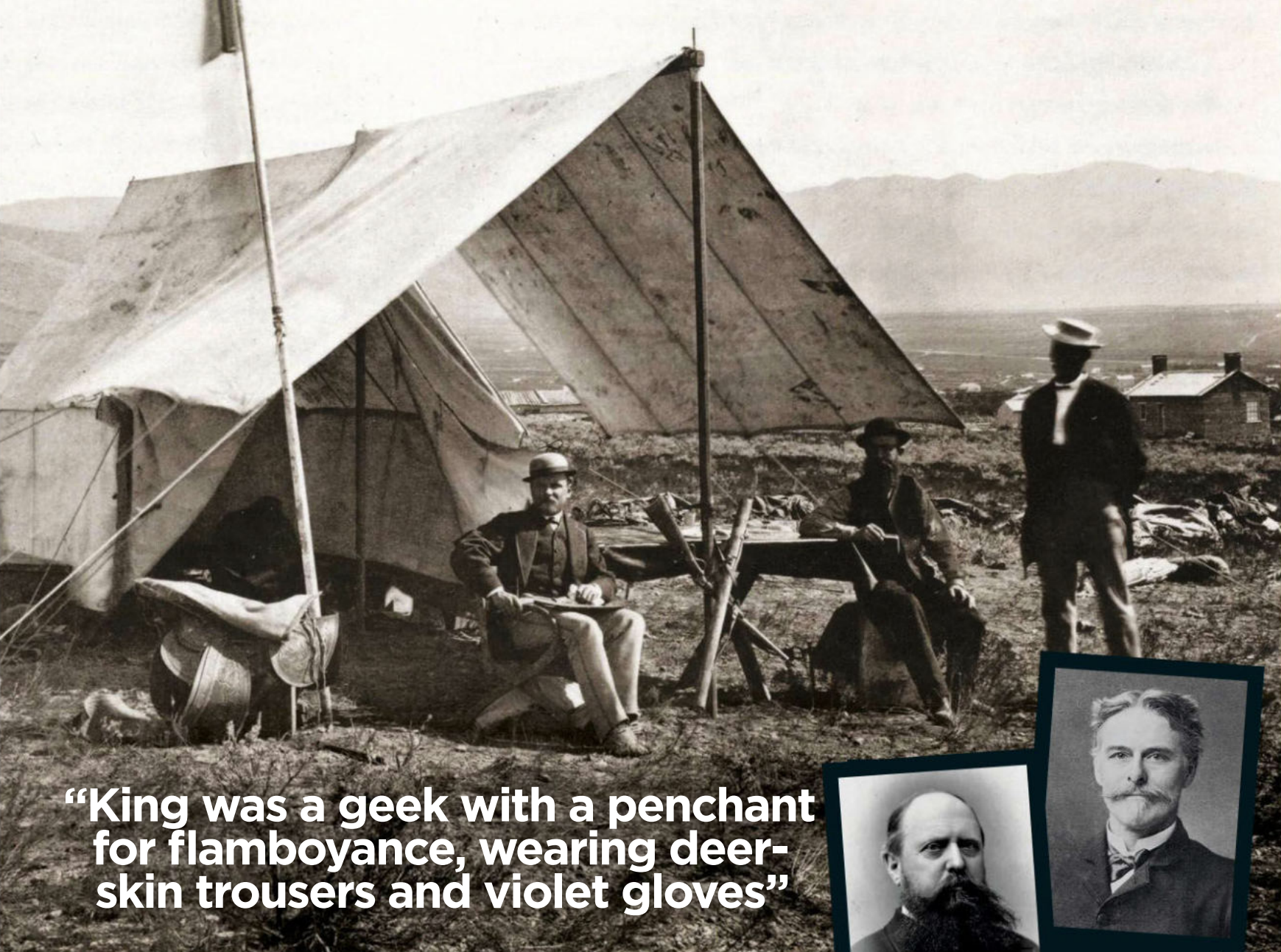
Anthropologist Alice Cunningham Fletcher grew up in a wealthy family in New York and, by the 1860s, was travelling across Europe, teaching in private schools. She returned to the United States and, in 1881, she went to live with the Sioux in Dakota. Fletcher's aim was to study how the Sioux lived and try to improve relations between Native Americans and white Americans.

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has made some of Fletcher's diaries available to read online and they give a fascinating insight into

the daily lives of the Sioux. In one entry from 1881, she details riding with a young Native American friend named Wajapa. As they were riding, Wajapa pointed out some horses in the distance, which he recognised as being stolen from his tribe by white settlers. Despite this, he told Fletcher that the tribe had no legal right to claim them back. She would make a significant contribution to increasing public awareness of the problems faced by Native Americans.







**“King was a geek with a penchant for flamboyance, wearing deer-skin trousers and violet gloves”**

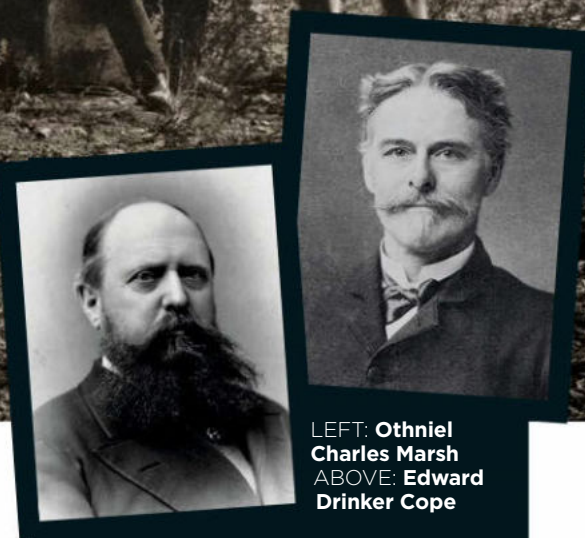
his friend. This particular tribe was known to impale enemies to the ground with stakes, whereupon they would be tortured and set on fire. During a tense stand-off, King was ordered to dismount his horse. Instead, he pulled out his mercury barometer and explained how it was a recently invented long-range gun. This seemed to confuse and worry his aggressors in equal measure, buying King and his friend sufficient time for the cavalry unit to catch up, at which point the tribe dispersed.

### **SNAP DECISION**

While King was experiencing these high adventures, a young Englishman named Eadweard Muybridge was studying photography back in his homeland. He had returned to Britain having fled the Wild West following a horrific stagecoach crash in which he suffered a bad head injury, having been thrown clear of the vehicle and banging his skull on a rock. Those who knew him say the accident had a detrimental effect on his personality. However, Muybridge would eventually return to the Old West and make his mark on history.

By 1872, Muybridge was forging a reputation as a pioneering photographer and that year he actually worked with King in mapping the area around Yosemite Valley in California. This was a busy time for Muybridge, as he had also been commissioned by the former state governor, Leland Stanford, to prove whether or not galloping horses simultaneously lifted all four hooves in the air. Stanford had placed a bet with some acquaintances that they did indeed lift all four hooves, but in a time before moving pictures, this would be difficult to prove. So Muybridge set up a series of trip wires on a racecourse that would automatically trigger a burst of photographs. It was a valiant effort, but the results remained inconclusive. He would, though, continue to try to solve the question.

Meanwhile, 1872 was another busy year for King, when he briefly achieved international fame when he exposed a diamond hoax. Unwitting businessmen were being sold land on the basis that diamonds lay underneath it. In fact, the jewels had been planted in the ground to give this illusion of diamond-rich land. King, along with some cohorts, travelled to the site in Colorado to reveal the fraud.



LEFT: **Othniel Charles Marsh**  
ABOVE: **Edward Drinker Cope**

## **PALEONTOLOGY THE BONE WARS**

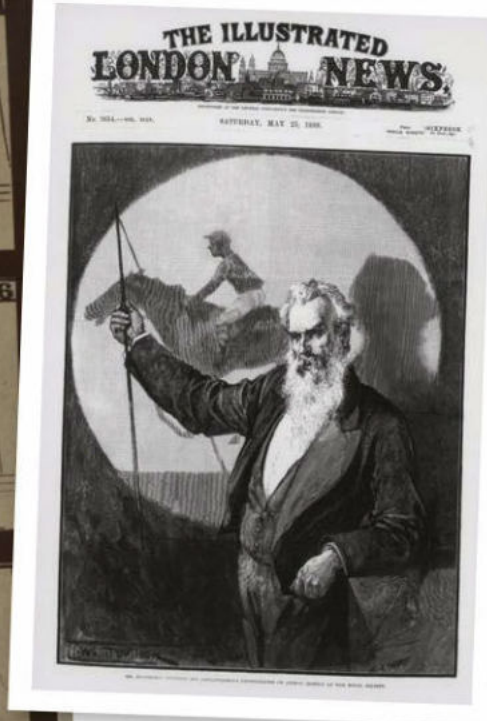
It wasn't just gold that caused an influx of people into the American West during the 19th century. The Great Dinosaur Rush – also billed as the Bone Wars – was a period during the century's closing decades when prospectors feverishly ventured westwards to discover dinosaur bones.

The Bone Wars were crystallised by the fierce rivalry between two paleontologists from the East Coast: Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope. Each sought to outdo the other when it came to the quality and quantity of their finds. Between them, they discovered more than 140 different species of dinosaur across Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.





## WILD WEST PIONEERS OF DISCOVERY



ABOVE: **Muybridge** featured on the cover of *The Illustrated London News* in 1889 LEFT: **Muybridge's** photographs proved that all four hooves of a horse leave the ground when galloping

Wind forward two years and Muybridge's life had taken a turn for the worse. But his connection with Stanford (who would co-found the university that still bears his name) would save his life. In 1874, Muybridge discovered – via a hand-written message on the back of a photograph – that his wife was having an affair with a Scot called Harry Larkyns, a drama critic who also passed himself off as a former British Army officer. Enraged, Muybridge paid Larkyns a visit to discuss the situation.

The testimony of those present recounts the photographer's greeting: "My name is Muybridge. Here is the answer to the letter you sent my wife." At this point, Muybridge shot Larkyns dead at point-blank range. With the photographer facing the death penalty, Stanford paid for Muybridge's legal defence. His counsel made much of the fact that Muybridge had suffered brain-altering injuries in the stagecoach crash and, as such, was not

## "Muybridge argued that he was right to shoot the major"

entirely in charge of his faculties. Muybridge himself, though, rejected this plea in court and argued that he was right to shoot the major in revenge. Muybridge was acquitted on the grounds of justifiable homicide.

### DOUBLE LIFE

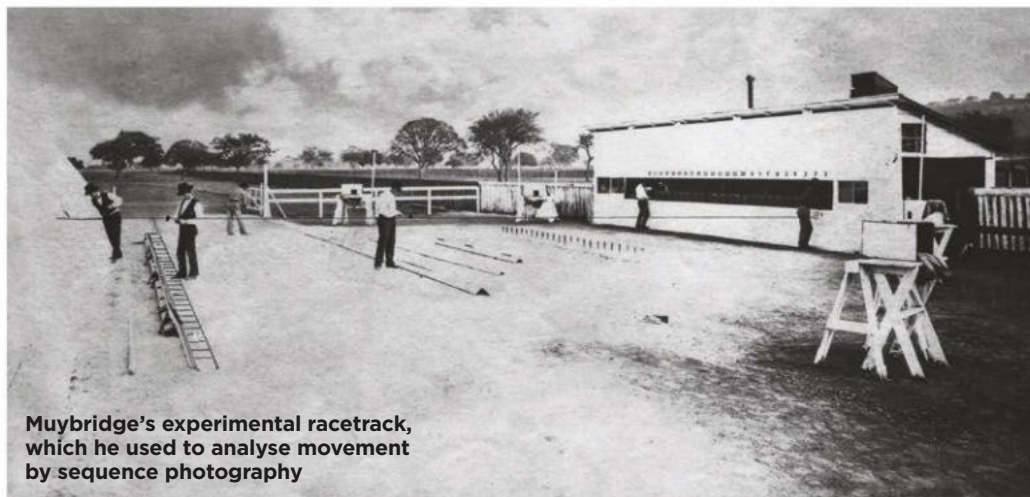
After the trial, Muybridge went back to work. In 1879, he invented the world's first movie projector, a device called the zoopraxiscope. Using his new invention, Muybridge successfully proved Stanford's suspicion that horses do, at times, have all four hooves off the ground during their running strides. Accordingly, Muybridge can arguably lay a claim to being the world's first cinematographer. In

1888, he showed his zoopraxiscope to Thomas Edison, the man whom history credits with inventing cinema.

At the same time that Muybridge was on trial, King was roughing it, living life on the edge as he always had. While undertaking surveying work that began at Yosemite, King crossed deserts, survived a terrible snowstorm and swam across a rain-swollen river on his way to Idaho.

In the late 1880s, King began living a double life after marrying a former slave. Interracial marriage was frowned upon, so King elected to disguise himself as a black man in everyday life, while continuing to go to work in the field as a white geologist. He kept up this charade for more than a decade before revealing all on his deathbed, where he died penniless in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of just 59. One could accuse King of being any number of things, but a meek yellowbelly would not be one of them.

The American West in the latter half of the 19th century was, in many ways, a brutal environment, one that dictated hard lives for geek and gunslinger alike. But for our scientific pioneers, the weapon that saved them most wasn't one loaded with bullets. Instead, their brains were their weapons. 🎯



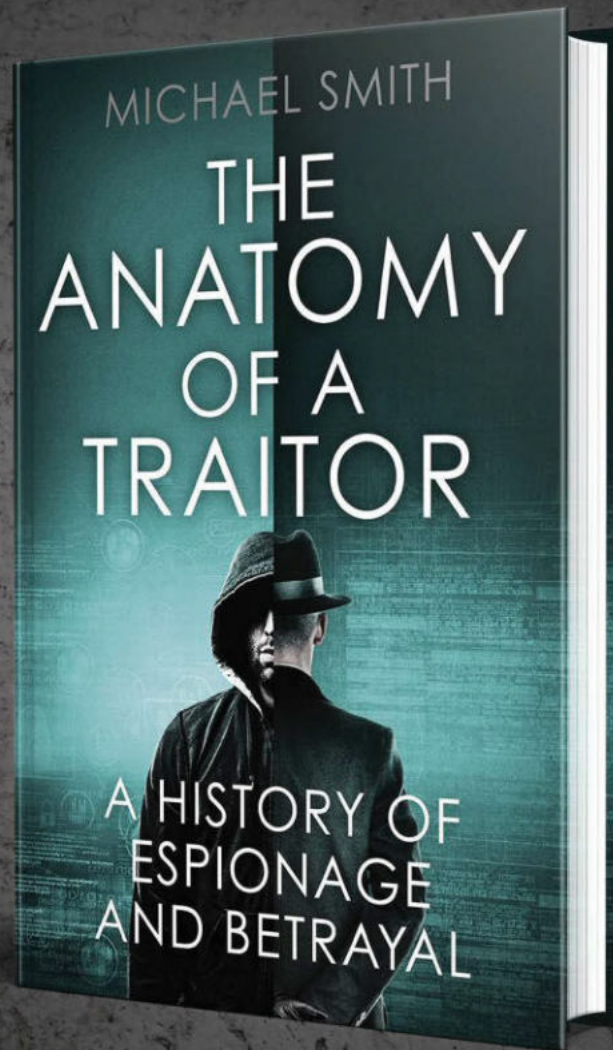
### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does the Wild West have an unfair reputation as merely a safe haven for illicit deeds and wanton violence?

email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



In this compelling investigation, Michael Smith explores the critical moment in a spy's life: that split-second decision to embrace a double life; to cheat and hide and hurt; to risk disgrace – even death – without any guarantee of being rewarded or even recognised.



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# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

**IN A NUTSHELL** p79 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p80  
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p78 • **WHAT IS IT?** p83

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### PUTTING UP WALLS

MAIN: For around three centuries, Hadrian's Wall extended 80 miles coast to coast  
BELOW: Hadrian was emperor of Rome from AD 117-138

# 10

The percentage of the original wall that is visible today. Since Roman times, it has been removed, buried or destroyed.

## Who was Hadrian, who built the wall?

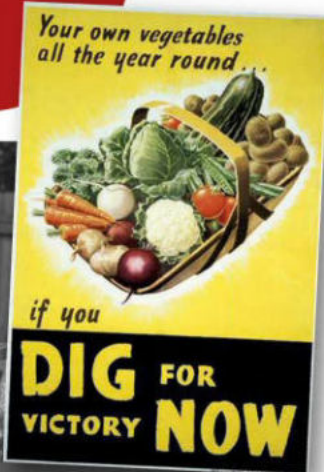
Born in AD 76, Hadrian became Roman emperor in AD 117 and reigned until his death almost 21 years later. The third of the so-called 'Five Good Emperors' credited with the most prosperous and progressive days of the empire, he was particularly notable for his efforts to unite the people under his rule through construction and

architecture. Though he boasted no major military achievements, he travelled his realm extensively – including Germany, Africa, Greece, Syria and Egypt – and oversaw the construction of new public buildings and monuments. In Rome itself, he rebuilt the iconic Pantheon that survives today. Following his visit to Britannia in AD 122, he ordered the construction of a sea-

to-sea wall to mark the frontier of the northern limit of the empire.

An admirer of Greek culture, he wrote poetry, enjoyed older literature, and set a fashion for beards. Hadrian died in his 60s, without any children, but his successor – Emperor Antonius Pius – continued to steer the empire through peace and prosperity. EB





**GROW YOUR OWN**  
Due to food shortages, Brits were encouraged to grow vegetables at home

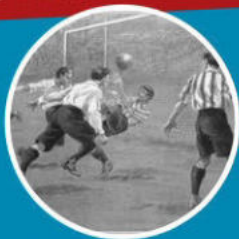
## Who came up with the idea of 'Dig for Victory'?

🎯 In 1912, Major LH Chase, a keen amateur gardener, invented a new cloche system for plant protection. Unlike the elegant 'mini greenhouses' used on Victorian country estates, Chase's 'barn' cloches were modular, consisting of panes of plain glass clipped together with wire. They were easily erected, transported and stored and, above all, cheap. During the 1930s, his company produced large models for tomatoes and vines, and even an ultra-cheap version for sale in Woolworths.

When German U-boats blockaded supply ships in World War II, the British government needed to encourage people to grow their own food. Chase's cloches were invaluable in extending the growing season on back-garden plots and many of the country's 1.4 million allotments. The company created gardening guides and hosted regular how-to talks. Their slogan 'Dig for Victory' was so snappy the government commandeered it, replacing the former 'Use Spades Not Ships'. Chase's other catchphrase, 'Cloches v. Hitler', never held the same cachet. SL

## WHAT CONNECTS...

### THE 1902 FA CUP FINAL AND THE KINGDOM OF ALBANIA?



**1** In 1902, Sheffield United won the FA Cup, beating Southampton two goals to one in a replay played at Crystal Palace.



**2** Playing at full back for Southampton that day was one of the most talented and famous athletes of his day, Charles Burgess Fry.



**3** As well as playing football, Fry played cricket for England, rugby for Oxford and shared the world long-jump record.



**4** Fry was such a celebrity that in 1920, delegates at the League of Nations supposedly asked him to be king of Albania. JH

## PLAY FOR LAUGHS

The earliest known comic dramas were written in Greece during the fifth century BC



## What is the **oldest surviving public comedy** in English?

🎯 Written by schoolmaster and playwright Nicholas Udall around 1552, the primary candidate is *Ralph Royster Doister*. The plot revolves around the unsuccessful courtship of a rich widow by the

pompous but foolish title character – who is ultimately defeated by her gaggle of maids. It has been suggested that it was written for public performance by his pupils, but the comedy was not published until 1567. EB

## WHY DO WE SAY

### "TO TAKE SOMETHING WITH A PINCH OF SALT"

From the original 17th-century version "to take with a grain of salt" and from the popular belief that taking a small amount of salt with other ingredients was a good antidote for poison, thus threats could be taken less seriously. AJ

## WHO INVENTED SAMURAI SWORDS?

🎯 According to legend, the man who invented the technique for forging these swords was a smith named Amakuni Yasutsuna. In about AD 700, he was watching soldiers returning from battle when he noticed several of them had broken swords. Yasutsuna told his son Amakura to collect some of the broken weapons, then retreated into his forge and locked the doors. Thirty-one days later, the two men emerged, gaunt and exhausted but holding a new type of sword.

How much truth there is in the legend is obscure. From historical sources, it seems that the samurai sword became widespread around AD 900, though very few earlier examples are known. The making of these blades involved hundreds of hours of work heating, hammering and folding the steel, then melding together different types of steel, followed by a complex tempering process to impart different qualities of strength. RM

**WAY OF THE SAMURAI**  
The curved swords are known as *katana* in Japan



# IN A NUTSHELL CATHARS

Lottie Goldfinch explains what they believed and why they died out



## Who were the Cathars?

Catharism was a Christian dualist movement (a religion based on a belief in two gods) that could be found across western Europe from the 11th century. The Languedoc, France, the Netherlands and various German states were among those with a Cathar presence at this time and the religion is thought to have travelled via trade routes from the Byzantine Empire.

## What did they believe?

According to the Cathar faith, there were two gods: a good god of the New Testament, who made the heavens and all immaterial things, including light and souls, and a bad god of the Old Testament, who had captured souls and imprisoned them in a human body. He was the god of material things, such as the world and everything in it. Leading a good life would see a soul freed from its sinful body and returned to heaven, whereas a bad life would see the soul condemned to live another life, trapped in a different body.

Another important aspect of the Cathar faith, and one

that made it stand out from other Christian religions, was a special ceremony known as the *consolamentum*, which was usually undertaken before death, and ensured the soul would be released from the cycle of earthly imprisonment. After this rite had been performed, the individual was raised to the status of a 'perfect' and expected to follow a life of extreme austerity and to renounce the world. Consumption of animal flesh was forbidden, as was sexual contact.

## How did the Catholic Church react to Catharism?

The Cathar religion was branded heretical by the Roman Catholic Church, and some authorities went so far as to brand them as being non-Christian. Many

## "The Cathar religion was branded heretical by the Roman Catholic Church"

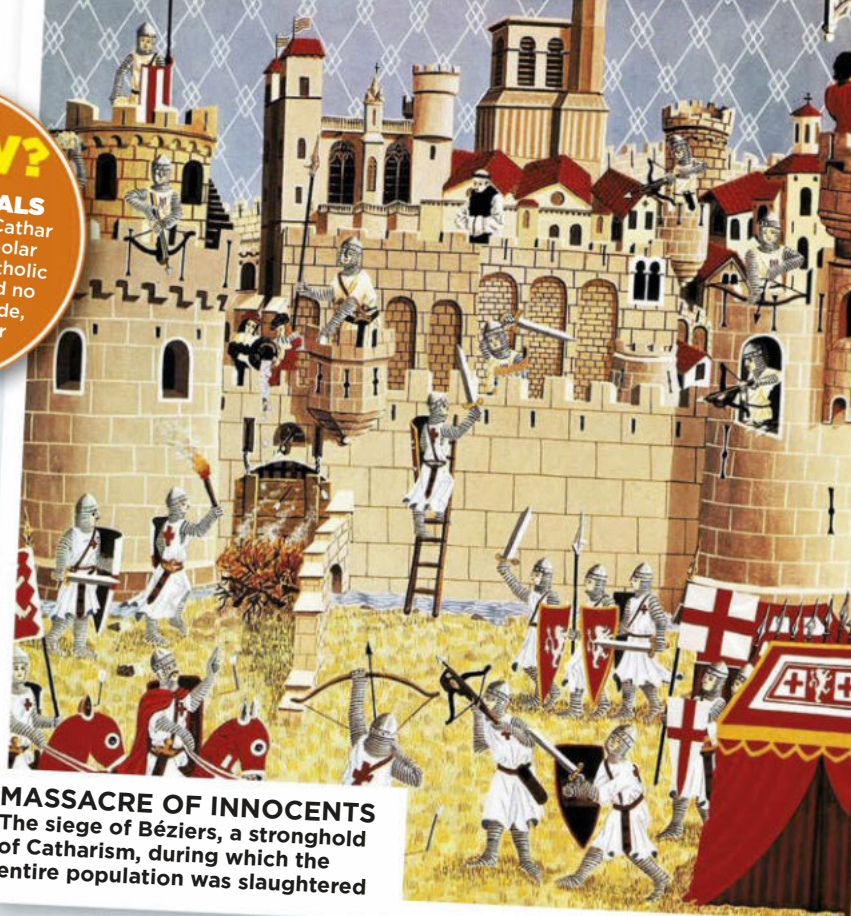
attempts were made to extinguish the movement, including that of Pope Eugene III in 1147, but although a few arrests were made over the years, the Church failed to eliminate the movement completely. In 1198, however, Pope Innocent III came to power, and he resolved to rid Europe of the religion once and for all.

**FLAMES OF HELL**  
Heretics are burned at the stake following the siege of Montségur

## DID YOU KNOW?

### EARLY LIBERALS

In many ways the Cathar religion was the polar opposite to the Catholic one, as it preached no objection to suicide, contraception or euthanasia.



**MASSACRE OF INNOCENTS**  
The siege of Béziers, a stronghold of Catharism, during which the entire population was slaughtered

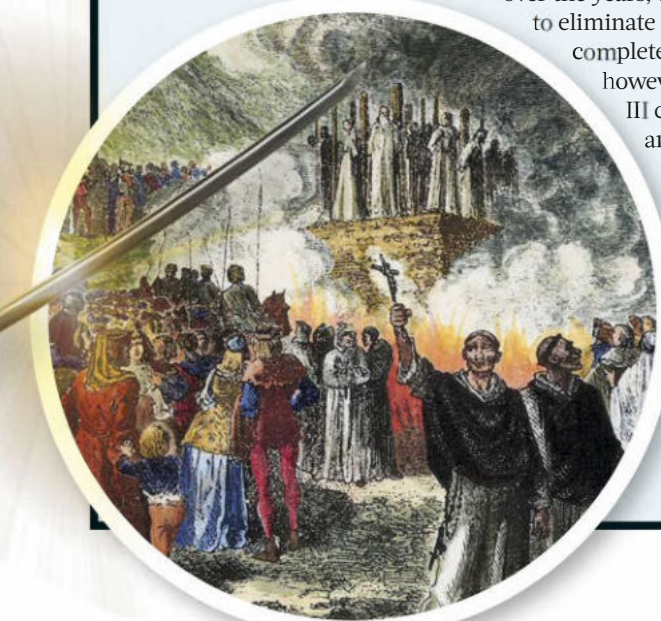
## What were the Cathar Wars?

Cathar influence grew in the Languedoc during the 12th century, becoming the majority religion in many areas. Preaching campaigns and public debates on behalf of the Catholic church failed to change the situation, and in 1208, after a papal legate

the Treaty of Paris in 1229, Cathars were by no means out of danger. In 1234, an Inquisition was established to root out any remaining Cathars and it was this that finally crushed the movement, with those who refused to recant their beliefs hanged or burned at the stake. Those who recanted were forced to sew yellow crosses onto their clothing and to live apart from other Catholics.

Retribution was brutal. On Friday 13 May 1239, some 183 Cathar men and women were burned alive in Champagne, while between May 1243 and March 1244, the Cathar fortress of Montségur was besieged and more than 200 Cathar perfects burned on a huge fire near the foot of the castle.

Over several decades, Cathar religious texts were destroyed and with those who remained faithful to the religion forced to scatter, the movement effectively ended, with Italian Catharism also coming under pressure from the Pope and Inquisition from the mid-12th century. The Cathar legacy remained in the Languedoc, though, with descendants of Cathars – regardless of their return to the Catholic faith – often forced to live outside the town walls.





## HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

# THE DREADNOUGHT

The Royal Navy's 'all-big-gun' battleship set a new standard for naval technology, and triggered a global arms race



In 1906, Britain brought out the big guns. HMS *Dreadnought* was the first of a new class of battleship, representing such an advance in technology that an entire generation of ships came to be named after her. Unlike earlier classes, *Dreadnought* had a uniform main battery of large guns and was powered by steam turbines, making her the fastest battleship in the world. Immediately after her launch, navies scrambled to compete, with the race intensifying in the lead-up to World War I.

### TURRET

The gun turrets could rotate and be depressed or elevated, firing 850-pound projectiles at a range of 18,686m

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Tonnage:** 21,060 tons **Speed:** 21 knots



### DECK

Deck armour was applied to protect against splinter damage from shells exploding above.

### HULL

The main threat was not from shellfire but from torpedoes and mines. The area below the waterline had to be well protected with steel armour.



**DREADED WEAPON**  
HMS *Dreadnought*,  
photographed  
in 1909

### RANGEFINDER

*Dreadnought* was one of the first Royal Navy vessels to be fitted with instruments for electrically transmitting range, order and deflection information to the turrets. The control positions for the main armament were located in the spotting top at the head of the foremast and on a platform on the roof of the signal tower.

### FUNNEL

The placement of *Dreadnought's* foremast behind the forward funnel put the spotting top right in the plume of hot exhaust gases, much to the detriment of her fighting ability.

### SIGNAL TOWER

### BATTERY

HMS *Dreadnought* had ten 12-inch guns, along with 27 12-pounders to use as secondary armament.

### TURRETS

The guns were mounted in five twin turrets, allowing eight guns to fire on either side and giving the firepower of two of the earlier ships.

### STEAM TURBINE

The introduction of turbines meant that ships were lighter and faster. HMS *Dreadnought* could produce 27,000 shaft horsepower.

### ENTERING STEAM

### FIXED PAILS

### ROTATING PAILS

### EXITING STEAM AT LOW PRESSURE

### BIG GUNS

The quarterdeck of a dreadnought, showing the gun turrets



## WE ATE WHAT?!

## BROXY

**Target** The Victorian labouring poor, working long hours on empty stomachs, were desperate for any kind of protein. Even cheap cuts like sheep's head could be too expensive. Some families managed to eat meat once or twice a week, others supplemented their diet with slink (prematurely born calves), tripe or spleen, called 'melts' in an attempt to make it sound more appetising. Only the truly down-at-heel chose broxy.

The cute, almost folksy, name belied the meat's true nature: sheep that had died through some kind of disease. It was cheap, it was meat. It was also a game of contamination lucky dip. Would the consumer suffer from salmonella, tetanus, toxoplasmosis, some random poison or might they survive this time? Even if diners didn't eat broxy at home, there was no guarantee unscrupulous Sweeney Todds weren't serving pies, stews or broths of tainted meat in low-rent pie shops. **SL**

**WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**  
Broxy often contained bacteria and parasites



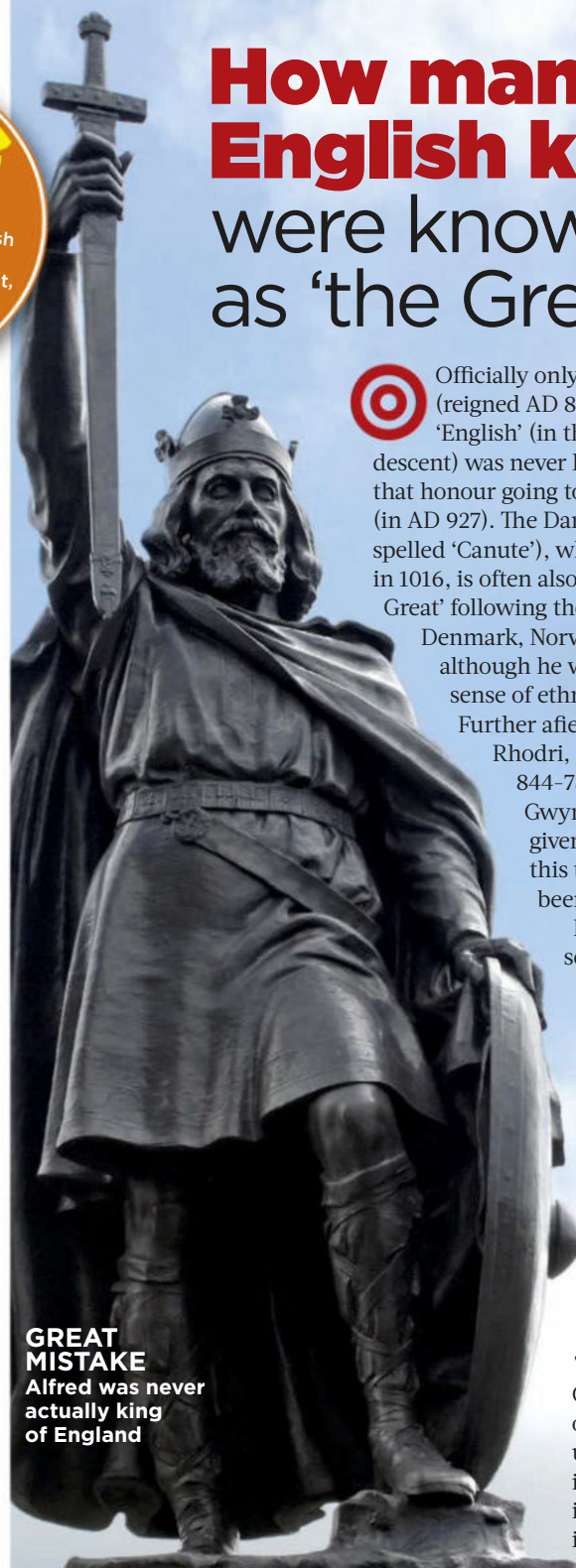
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## DID YOU KNOW?

## WE ARE FAMILY

With just a few exceptions, every English king and queen who followed Alfred the Great, including Elizabeth II, is a direct descendant of him.

# How many English kings were known as 'the Great'?



**Target** Officially only one: Alfred 'the Great' (reigned AD 871-899). Alfred, although 'English' (in that he was of Saxon descent) was never king of a united England – that honour going to his grandson, Æthelstan (in AD 927). The Danish prince Cnut (often spelled 'Canute'), who became king of England in 1016, is often also referred to as Cnut 'the Great' following the extension of his power to Denmark, Norway and parts of Sweden, although he was not 'English' in the sense of ethnicity and background.

Further afield in Wales, two monarchs, Rhodri, King of Gwynedd (AD 844-78) and Llywelyn, Prince of Gwynedd (AD 1173-1240) were given the epithet 'Great', but this title never appears to have been applied to a Scottish king.

If you expand the search to cover 'British' monarchs, two kings of the first century AD were credited with 'greatness'. Cunobelinus, later immortalised by Shakespeare in his play *Cymbeline*, leader of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes tribes (of Hertfordshire and Essex) was described by a Roman historian as 'Great King of the Britons'. There was also Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus, king of the Regni tribe, who used the title 'Great King in Britain' on a Roman inscription preserved in Chichester. **MR**

**GREAT MISTAKE**  
Alfred was never actually king of England

**FAMILY PORTRAIT**  
Victoria sits for a photo with her daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter



## MYTH BUSTING

## Who said "We are not amused?"

**Target** It's often claimed that Queen Victoria said this to an equerry who had told a risqué joke (the 'we' in question was not the royal 'we' but the ladies who were present), and the phrase has since come to epitomise the perceived strait-laced stuffiness of both the era and its queen. However, if her diaries are anything to go by, Victoria had a keen sense of humour and certainly enjoyed a joke. Furthermore, speaking in an interview in 1976, Victoria's granddaughter, Alice, Countess of Athlone, said that Victoria herself told her that she never uttered these famous words at all. **JH**

# 42

The number of grandchildren Victoria had



## HIDDEN HISTORICALS

CAN YOU WORK OUT WHO IS HIDDEN IN THE SYMBOLS?

History

According to this famous thinker, immorality is sometimes acceptable



SEE ANSWERS BELOW

## Why did Hitler choose a swastika?

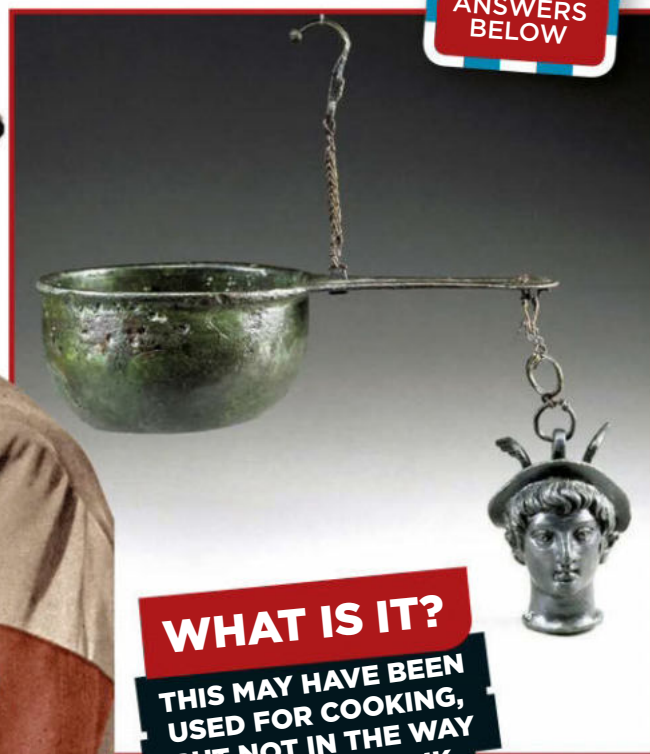


Never in history has a good-luck symbol been so thoroughly hijacked as the swastika. A symbol of wellbeing and happiness, it's also been known as a gammadion, Hakenkreuz and flyfoot. The mark is perfectly innocent in Jain, Buddhist, Norse and Navajo traditions and examples have been found in Neolithic art.

Adolf Hitler needed a simple symbol he could use to rally poor, unemployed people to his Nazi cause. He didn't want anything fussy, just something he could present as a sign of Third Reich force, power and direction. The 11,000-year-old hooked cross, with its compelling, clockwise arms, when placed on a white and red background, was just the ticket. That it had also been used by Hitler's declared antecedents, the Aryan nomads of India, millennia beforehand was a bonus.

For western people it can be jarring to see the symbol used for its original purpose in countries less affected by World War II. It may take another 11,000 years to lose its odious western connotations. SL

**SYMBOL OF HATE**  
The swastika is banned in Germany and Poland



**WHAT IS IT?**

THIS MAY HAVE BEEN USED FOR COOKING, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU MIGHT THINK



## WHEN DID QUEEN BOADICEA BECOME QUEEN BOUDICCA?



Boadicca, British queen and leader of a revolt against Rome in AD 60, has been known by many different versions of her name. Up until the mid-20th century, she was usually called Boadicea, the name-form that famously appears on the base of a statue outside the Houses of Parliament in London. This seems to have derived from a Medieval mis-transcription of the original pre-Latin name, as 'Boadicea', as far as we can tell, has no obvious meaning. The prefix boud/bod/budd, however, may be translated, in certain Celtic sources, as meaning 'victorious': hence 'Boudicca', as a name close to 'Victoria', is preferred by modern historians. We shall probably never know for sure for. Whereas the names that we give to people today are fixed, one has only to think of the many name-forms provided for Shakespeare (Shakspeare, Shakespear, Shaxspere etc) to realise that certainty in spelling is a curiously modern obsession. MR

**LOST IN TRANSLATION**  
We may never know for sure what Boudicca was called by her people

**NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS**

@Historyrevmag#askhistrevmag  
www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed  
editor@historyrevealed.com

Answers: Hidden Historicals Mac Ear Veil E (Machaveilli) What is it? A Roman steelyard balance, which incorporates a counterweight in the form of the god Mercury that slides along the arm to counterbalance the load and indicate its weight



Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p86 • BOOKS p88

## ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

### EVENT

## Scotland's National Airshow

22 July, National Museum of Flight  
[www.bit.ly/1YIQUdB](http://www.bit.ly/1YIQUdB)

Marvel at daredevil displays from the Red Arrows, as well as the Breitling Wingwalkers, an all-female team of biplane wingwalkers. Aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will take to the skies, as well as biplanes from the Royal Navy Historic Flight. On the ground, spectators can enjoy the revamped hangars and Concorde experience, as well as a load of traditional festival activities.



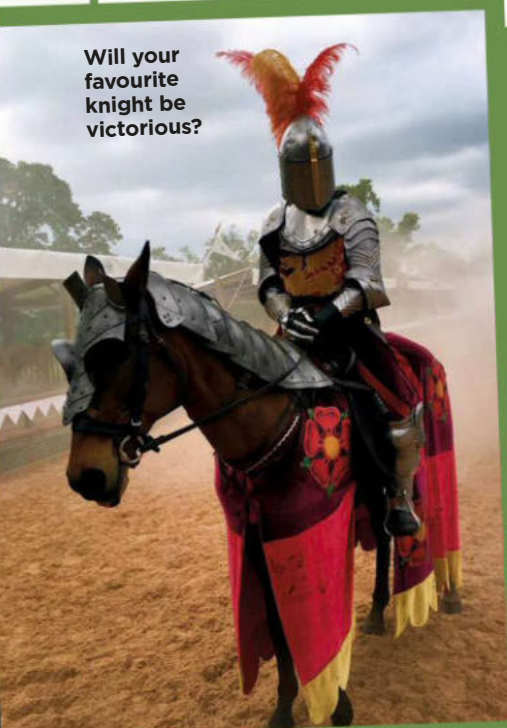
Meet aviation heroes from the past

Try your hand at piloting by exploring aircraft cockpits



The Red Arrows headline, doing their usual tricks

Will your favourite knight be victorious?



### EVENT

## Wars of the Roses Live!

Warwick Castle, 22 July - 3 September  
[www.bit.ly/2o42tti](http://www.bit.ly/2o42tti)

Experience this all-new, live-action show at Warwick Castle. Pledge your allegiance to the Lancastrian Tudors or the House of York, and watch the battle unfurl before your very eyes. An incredible array of jousting, stunts and special effects make this re-enactment unlike any other. Make a holiday of it by staying in the Knight's Village, with a package of cosy themed lodges and free castle tickets.

### EXHIBITION

## Dying Matters

Leeds City Museum, ends 30 July [www.bit.ly/2r4Nu52](http://www.bit.ly/2r4Nu52)

Dying Matters has been curated by a national organisation that aims to help people talk openly about death and bereavement. In this exhibition, objects from around the world demonstrate how the end of life was perceived in different cultures, from Ancient Egypt to Victorian Britain.

Learn how different cultures deal with death







Despite being based on a horror story, the amusing performances are suitable for all ages

## PERFORMANCE

### Dracula

22-23 and 29-30 July, Whitby Abbey, [www.bit.ly/2pPY2EL](http://www.bit.ly/2pPY2EL)

Head to this atmospheric abbey and be afraid – be very afraid – of the terrifying Transylvanian Count Dracula in these unique performances. In the original Bram Stoker novel, Whitby Abbey is where the bloodsucking vampire comes ashore in England for the first time and scares the local population. An interactive show, viewers will explore the ruins with the actors as the play progresses.

## FESTIVAL

### Wimpole History Festival

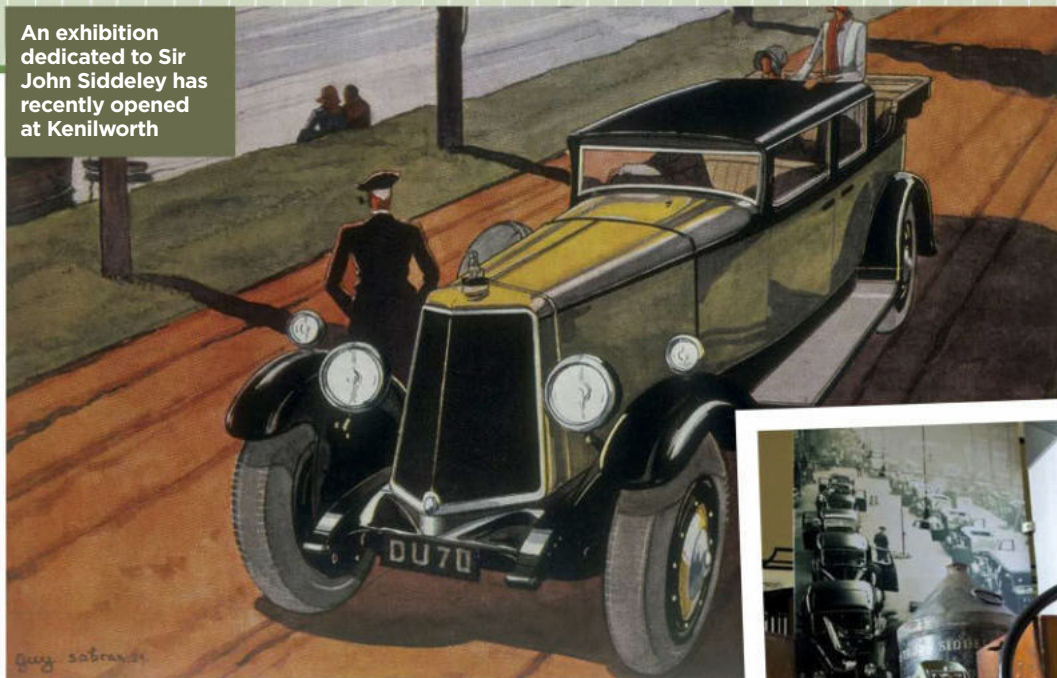
Wimpole Estate, Cambridge, 7-9 July [www.bit.ly/2pCqKZ2](http://www.bit.ly/2pCqKZ2)

The National Trust's brand-new history and heritage festival will take place at the enchanting Wimpole Estate. Listen to talks from prominent historians including Lucy Worsley, or relax with some entertaining performances, dress-up sessions and workshops. This awesome weekend of historical fun is sure to excite enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds.



Lucy Worsley talks Jane Austen

An exhibition dedicated to Sir John Siddeley has recently opened at Kenilworth

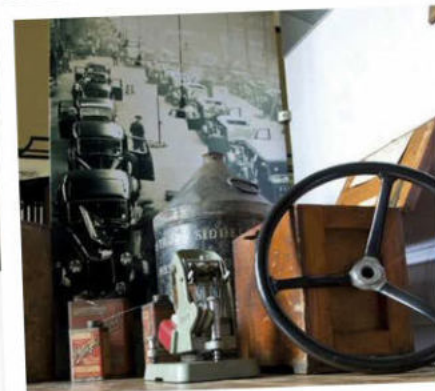


## EVENT

# The Thrilling Thirties

22-23 July, Kenilworth Castle [www.bit.ly/2quFSeX](http://www.bit.ly/2quFSeX)

Sir John Siddeley, a pioneer in the early British automobile and aviation industries, is commemorated this year at Kenilworth Castle (a ruined Norman fortress), which he gifted to the nation in 1954. Petrolheads will love the display of 1930s cars and tech, but there will also be a vintage fair with rides and games for all the family to enjoy.



## TO WATCH

### Against the Law

Coming soon to BBC Two

This powerful drama explores the infamous Montagu Trial of the 1950s, in which a gay journalist was betrayed to the authorities by his lover, at a time when homosexuality was a crime. Emerging from prison a broken man, Peter Wildeblood and his friends Lord Montagu and Michael Pitt-Rivers set about changing public perceptions – and the law – of male homosexuality. Real testimonies from men who suffered under such treatment at the time are enlaced into the story.



Daniel Mays, of *Line of Duty* fame, stars alongside *Sherlock* creator Mark Gatiss

## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR...

- **Georgian Cookery** – Immerse yourself in the sights and smells of a bustling Georgian kitchen in the year 1789. Kew Palace, 15-16 July, [www.bit.ly/2pAHZCE](http://www.bit.ly/2pAHZCE)
- **Women of the Russian Revolution** – Catriona Kelly and Dolya Gavanski discuss the role of women in the revolution of 1917. British Library, 10 July, [www.bit.ly/2r3fDJ4](http://www.bit.ly/2r3fDJ4)



### HEART OF THE CITY

The castle's prime location in Cardiff city centre – on the junction of High Street and Castle Street – makes it an unmissable attraction



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

# CARDIFF CASTLE Cardiff, Wales

From Roman garrison to Norman stronghold and finally a **Victorian Gothic fantasy**, this structure in the heart of Cardiff holds the secrets of the Welsh capital's past

#### GETTING THERE:

By car – from the M4, exit junction 32 and follow the road to Cardiff city centre. By train – Cardiff Central is just ten minutes' walk away. Look for the signs around the centre.



**TIMES AND PRICES:** Open seven days a week, all year from 9am. Last admission is 4-5pm. Adults £12.50, children £9, Concessions £10.95.

#### FIND OUT MORE:

Call 029 2087 8100 or visit [www.cardiffcastle.com](http://www.cardiffcastle.com)

**C**ardiff Castle is a fairytale fantasy of towering turrets, heraldic motifs and elaborate carvings. It was built in the 1860s as the ultimate medieval dream world by whimsical architect William Burges. Yet its mythical looks hide a real history spanning over 2,000 years.

First to set up camp were the Romans, who arrived during the first half of the reign of Emperor Nero (AD 54-68). They built their first fort comprising timber barracks, stores and workshops on this strategically important

site where the River Taff nears the Bristol Channel. Around AD 300, a new fort was built, with ten-foot-thick stone walls – some of which survive to this day – to protect the Empire against attacks. It served until the Roman Army withdrew from Britain in the fifth century.

Little is known of the castle during the centuries that followed the Roman departure, until the Normans, realising the strategic value of the site for their expansion into Wales, raised a new castle in the late 11th century. The resulting structure – home to

the Norman Lord of Gloucester, Robert Fitzhamon, one of William the Conqueror's followers – was an outstanding example of the classic motte-and-bailey fortification.

### DARK PAST

In the 1270s, with the Welsh unified under the leadership of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, the castle was refortified in anticipation of further Welsh rebellion. The wall was strengthened and the Black Tower, a 12-sided stone keep, and south gateway were constructed. In 1306, the castle





TOP: The intricate Arab Room is based on Moorish design  
ABOVE: The castle backs directly onto Bute Park

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



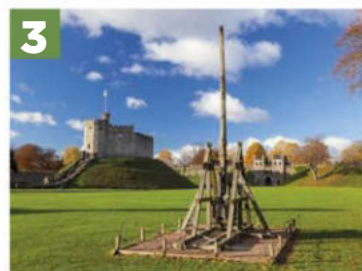
### 1 THE ROMAN WALL

Cardiff Castle's Roman past was hidden until 1888, when workmen discovered the remains of the Roman fort. Excavations indicate that this was the first of four forts.



### 2 THE NORMAN KEEP

Fifty steps up at the top of the keep, the views of Cardiff are breathtaking and, to the north, you can see as far as Castell Coch, seven miles away.



### 3 THE TREBUCHET

The trebuchet at Cardiff Castle is a historically accurate replica of a 13th-century siege engine, developed to attack the solid stone walls of castles.



### 4 THE ANIMAL WALL

Alongside the castle runs the Animal Wall. Models of each animal were made for Lord Bute's approval and two, including a sea horse, were rejected.



### 5 WARTIME SHELTERS

Within the walls are tunnels that were used as air-raid shelters during World War II. Ramps were built so people could gain access quickly when the sirens sounded.



### 6 CLOCK TOWER

One of the most recognisable landmarks in Cardiff, the Clock Tower contains some of the most stunning rooms in the castle, connected by a charming staircase.

## "Its mythical looks hide a real history spanning 2,000 years"

passed to the Despensers, a family of unpopular Norman-English barons, and remained in their possession for almost 100 eventful years. In 1317, rebel Llywelyn Bren was imprisoned there after instigating a revolt against the English overlords. There he suffered a traitor's death, with his body dragged through the streets. In 1321, the castle was captured by neighbouring marcher lords (nobles appointed by the king to guard the English-Welsh border), who sought to overthrow King Edward II. Although unsuccessful, in 1326 the marchers finally attained their goal – Edward II was imprisoned and Hugh le Despenser was hanged.

In 1400, the Welsh rebellion against Henry IV of England,

led by Owain Glyndŵr, gained strength, rapidly seizing control of large areas of Wales. Four years later, avenging the murder of Bren, Glyndŵr broke into Cardiff, setting fire to it and ransacking the castle.

Despite this savage assault, the Despensers retained control of the castle until 1414, when it passed to the husband of the last Despenser heir, Isabel, and various others. It came into the hands of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who became King Richard III in 1483. Upon his defeat by Tudor dynasty founder Henry VII, the castle was given to the new king's uncle, Jasper.

In 1550, William Herbert, brother of Catherine Parr, obtained control. During the Civil War, the Herberts sided with their king, Charles I,

offering him refuge in 1645.

In 1776, the last Herbert heir, Charlotte Jane, passed the estates to her husband John Stuart, who became the Earl of Bute.

By the time John Crichton-Stuart, third Marquess of Bute, was in charge in the 1860s, he was reputed to be the richest man in the world – thanks to the growth of the coal industry. He had the cash to create a medieval-style castle with fashionable Gothic towers and lavishly appointed rooms, which can be toured today.

In 1947, the fantasy castle was presented in trust to the city of Cardiff for all its people to enjoy. Beyond the grandeur of its fanciful Victorian façade, Cardiff Castle's compelling Norman and Roman history firmly remains. 📍

## WHY NOT VISIT...

When it comes to castles, in Wales you're spoilt for choice

### CASTELL COCH

Another Burges creation, Castell Coch, was created for the third Marquess of Bute as a rural retreat to complement the opulence of his main residence, Cardiff Castle.

[www.bit.ly/1ISSx8t](http://www.bit.ly/1ISSx8t)

### RAGLAN CASTLE

Built in the 1430s for show rather than with battle in mind, it still held off Parliamentary forces for 13 weeks during the Civil War.

[www.bit.ly/2q6N2Xm](http://www.bit.ly/2q6N2Xm)

### CAERPHILLY CASTLE

The largest castle in Wales, built between 1268 and 1271, this stone fortress is surrounded by a series of moats and islands.

[www.bit.ly/2qcBtto](http://www.bit.ly/2qcBtto)



# BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

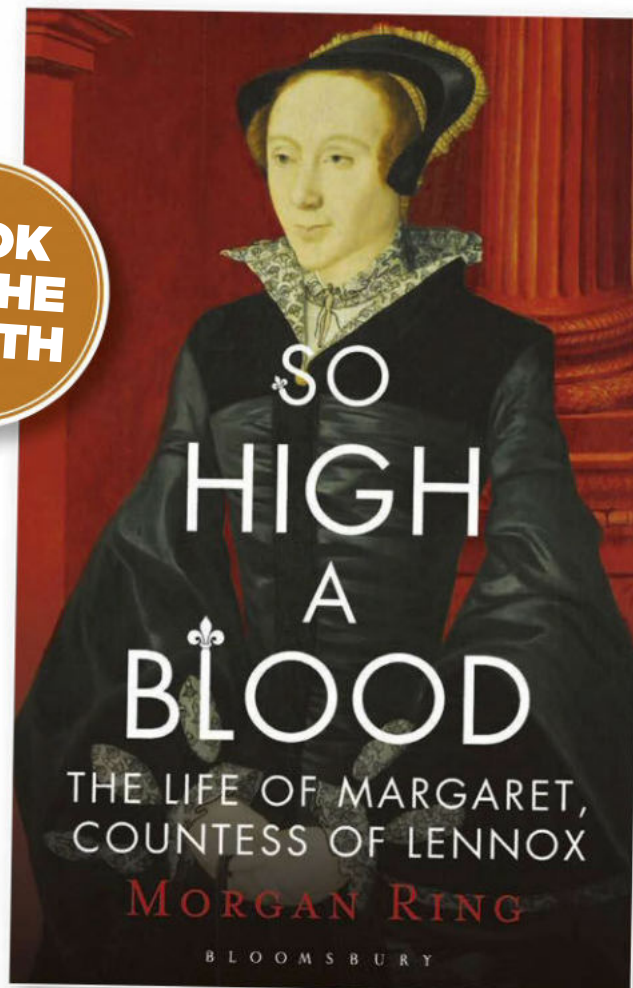
## So High a Blood: The Life of Margaret, Countess of Lennox

By Morgan Ring

Bloomsbury, £14.99, 368 pages, hardback

Religion, personal ambition and the relentless desire for an heir: three key forces of the Tudor period are here united in a biography of Margaret Douglas, half-sister of James V of Scotland. Fighting to seize power despite her uncle, Henry VIII, barring his Scottish relatives from the English throne, she used everything at her disposal to achieve her aims. As alliances shifted and Henry struggled to produce the male offspring he so longed for, Douglas emerges a complex, driven character. This is a fresh, very readable take on a period that continues to fascinate.

BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH



**“Fighting to seize power, Douglas used everything at her disposal to achieve her aims”**



LEFT: Margaret was buried in Westminster Abbey alongside Mary, Queen of Scots. BELOW: A portrait of William Cecil, advisor to Elizabeth I and friend of the Countess





## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Morgan Ring** on why so little is known about Margaret Douglas, and what draws her to historical characters that don't fit into boxes

### **What attracted you to writing about Margaret, Countess of Lennox?**

Margaret transformed herself from naïve young poet shut up in the Tower of London because of a teenage romance, to noblewoman making political deals with the most powerful people in England, Scotland, and Europe – it's a good story. Biography is also one of my favourite ways of writing history: we get not just a life, but a new, personal angle on life at court, Anglo-Scottish politics and the Reformation.

### **What impression did you get of her personality?**

One of the first things we have a record of Margaret doing is escaping from Scotland and spending two lonely years in drafty border castles. But when she at last made it to the English court, she made herself an instant favourite with Henry VIII. Her resilience is one of the most striking dimensions of her personality. Even though she outlived nearly everybody she loved, including her husband and all eight of their children, she never stopped working for her family.

As that suggests, she was intense – she loved and hated with a passion that comes across in all her letters. Even so, she got along in both England and Scotland, with servants and courtiers, and with reformers and her fellow Catholics. It was a neat trick to be friends with Mary, Queen of Scots and William Cecil, chief advisor to Elizabeth I at the same time!

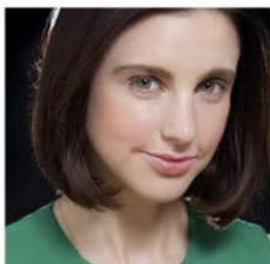
### **What were her greatest strengths and achievements?**

Margaret never missed an opportunity to bring her family closer to the thrones of England and Scotland and to promote her

Catholic faith. When Francis II of France died and left his wife Mary, Queen of Scots a widow, Margaret – who was Mary's aunt – moved faster than almost anybody. Her messengers were immediately en route to France with condolences and a reminder that Margaret had an eligible, Catholic son of Tudor blood – Henry, Lord Darnley.

She spent years getting support for the match from the Scottish queen herself and from allies in Scotland and Europe – and Mary did at last choose to marry Darnley.

The marriage was a disaster, but Mary and Darnley's son grew up to be James VI of Scotland and succeed Elizabeth I as James I of England – so every monarch from James onwards can trace their descent back to Margaret.



**“She loved and hated with a passion that comes across in all her letters”**

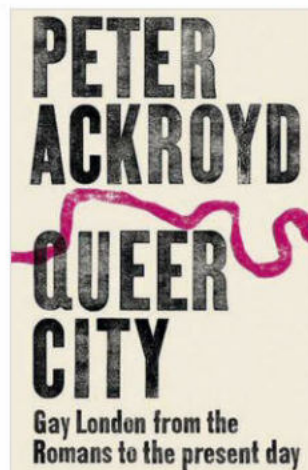
### **Hers might not be a name familiar to everyone. Why do you think this is?**

She's not in most of the Tudor movies and novels, which does not help! Margaret lived in England for almost all her life, but had a strong claim to a Scottish earldom and a long-standing ambition to see the two countries

under one monarchy, so the tidy boxes of national history do not really suit her story – fortunately, I think there is a real interest in people who do not fit into boxes.

### **How would you like your book to change our view of the wider period?**

I hope it says something new about cross-border connections during the English and Scottish reformations, the European context in which the Tudors lived, and the ways in which people perceived female power in the 16th century – and that it shows how many stories remain to be told about even the most familiar periods!



## **Queer City: Gay London from the Romans to the Present Day**

**By Peter Ackroyd**

Chatto and Windus, £16.99, hardback

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales. Yet, as this lively book explores, the experiences of gay people in Britain's capital extend back far beyond 1967. Through coffee bars and cottaging, AIDS and disco, this is a vibrant and important history.



## **The Women Who Flew for Hitler**

**By Clare Mulley**

Macmillan, £20, 496 pages, hardback

This brand-new biography of Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg, two female pilots in Nazi Germany, is a useful corrective to male-dominated histories of World War II. It's also packed with detail and colour, revealing how, despite their shared patriotism, the women ended up with very different views of the conflict.





## Farewell to the Horse: The Final Century of Our Relationship

By Ulrich Raulff, translated by Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp  
Allen Lane, £25, 464 pages, hardback

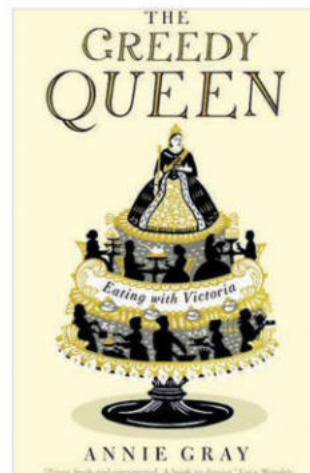
If you're thinking that a history of horses is a little niche, you're echoing one of this book's central points: that it's only recently that horses have been put out to pasture, societally speaking. This book brings them galloping back, exploring their central role in history.



## All Quiet on the Home Front

By Richard van Emden and Steve Humphries  
Pen and Sword, £12.99,  
352 pages, paperback

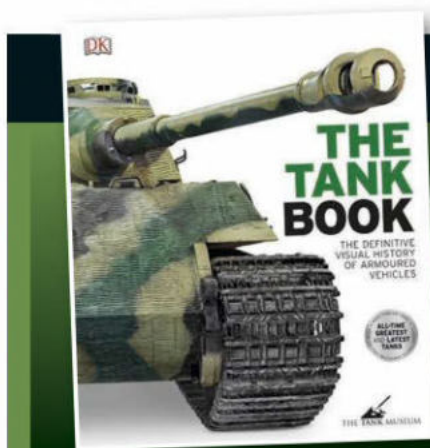
As World War I fades from living memory, so oral histories of the conflict become harder to produce. This look at life in Britain as war waged features a prolific interview of veterans, and spans a diverse array of gritty topics from bombing to farming and famine.



## The Greedy Queen: Eating With Victoria

By Annie Gray  
Profile, £16.99, 400 pages, hardback

Historian and food writer Annie Gray here embarks on a culinary biography of Queen Victoria, whose often-complex relationship with food reveals a great deal about both her and the society in which she lived. And, if you fancy trying your hand at dishes such as haggis royal and curry of chickens à l'Indienne, recipes are included.



## VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

Take an up-close look at British, US, Russian and French armoured vehicles and understand their complex mechanisms



## The Tank Book: The Definitive Visual History of Armoured Vehicles

Dorling Kindersley, £20, hardback

If you're interested in the development of armoured, motorised warfare across more than a century, this is an ideal place to discover more. Dorling Kindersley has teamed up with the Tank Museum to produce this fantastic book. Detailed images of the inside and outside of a wide range of models of tank are accompanied by useful timelines, contemporary photographs and statistics.





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This year, the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar Mint is celebrating this royal anniversary with a stunning new coin issue featuring the head of the House of Windsor, Queen Elizabeth II, who also celebrated her 65th anniversary on the throne this year. Be amongst the first to own this significant official coin issue, layered in 24-carat gold and finished with the most precious coin metal - platinum -, at the sensational first-issue price of just £5.95.

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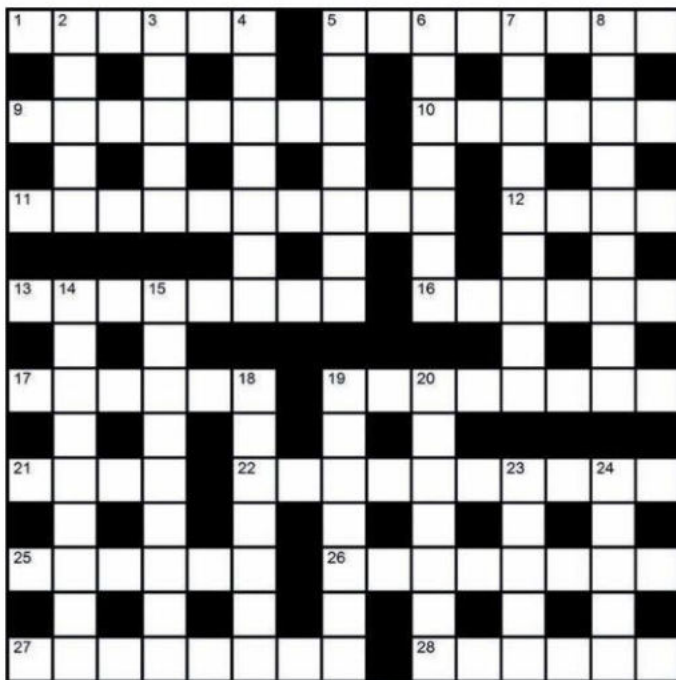
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# CROSSWORD N° 44

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1** State prison in California at which Johnny Cash played two live concerts in the 1960s (6)  
**5** Joe \_\_\_\_ (1914–99), baseball player and second husband of Marilyn Monroe (8)  
**9** In Imperial China, a government bureaucrat (8)  
**10** Bass \_\_\_\_ (1838–1910), African-American lawman (6)  
**11** Bernard Law \_\_\_\_ (1887–1976), British field marshal, later Viscount of Alamein (10)  
**12** King of Sweden known as 'the Tax King' (d.1022) (4)  
**13** From Heliopolis, Memphis or Thebes, perhaps? (8)  
**16** Island state of east Asia, ceded by China to Japan in 1895 (6)

- 17** Diana \_\_\_\_ (1910–2003), socialite and Nazi sympathiser, formerly Diana Mitford (6)  
**19** William \_\_\_\_ (1843–1901), 25th President of the US (8)  
**21** "It is better to be good than to be \_\_\_\_" – Oscar Wilde, 1891 (4)  
**22** US settlement in Wyandotte county (and 1930s-set Robert Altman film) (6,4)  
**25** Old term for a bath-house or disreputable boarding-house (6)  
**26** Stone artifact, important in ancient religions of the Mediterranean (8)  
**27** City in north-east Spain, besieged by Charlemagne in AD 778 (8)

- 28** North Yorkshire town, noted since 1875 for its rail link to Carlisle (6)

## DOWN

- 2** Region of south-east New Zealand, scene of an 1861 Gold Rush (5)  
**3** Anwar \_\_\_\_ (1918–81), President of Egypt and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (5)  
**4** Guglielmo \_\_\_\_ (1874–1937), Italian radio pioneer (7)  
**5** The London \_\_\_\_, gruesome history-themed tourist attraction (7)  
**6** Frederick \_\_\_\_ (1792–1848), Naval officer and author of the 1836 novel *Mr Midshipman Easy* (7)  
**7/23** Form of sacred song developed in the 9th and 10th centuries (9,5)  
**8** Construction commissioned in St Petersburg by Empress Anna Ivanovna in the winter of 1739–40 (3,6)  
**14** \_\_\_\_ Cavendish, celebrated Duchess of Devonshire (1757–1806) (9)  
**15** Bestselling 1913 children's novel by Eleanor H Porter (9)  
**18** Tokyo-born artist and activist (b.1933) (4,3)  
**19** Pedro de \_\_\_\_ (1487–1537), Spanish explorer and conquistador (7)  
**20** In European folklore, a malevolent Christmas spirit (7)  
**23** See 7  
**24** Mountain-dwelling beings in Scandinavian mythology (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN

### The Last Kingdom: Seasons 1 and 2

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#### HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, July 2017 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **july2017@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 August 2017**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.



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## SOLUTION N° 42



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The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

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*Shazia Fardous,  
Freelance Proofreader and Copyeditor*

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*Dorothy Nicolle*

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**BRITAIN'S GREATEST ESCAPE**

# DUNKIRK

**Why the 'little ships' miracle helped win the war**



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**BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE'S JACOBITE UPRISING**  
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## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### GAME OF THRONES

As someone who is living in Leicester, Richard III hasn't failed to escape my notice. Therefore, I found the piece by Julian Humphrys (May 2017) on his divisiveness timely as well as fascinating. I feel like people are still taking sides regarding the Battle of Bosworth, at times.

I'd like to clarify that I am by no means a Ricardian, and

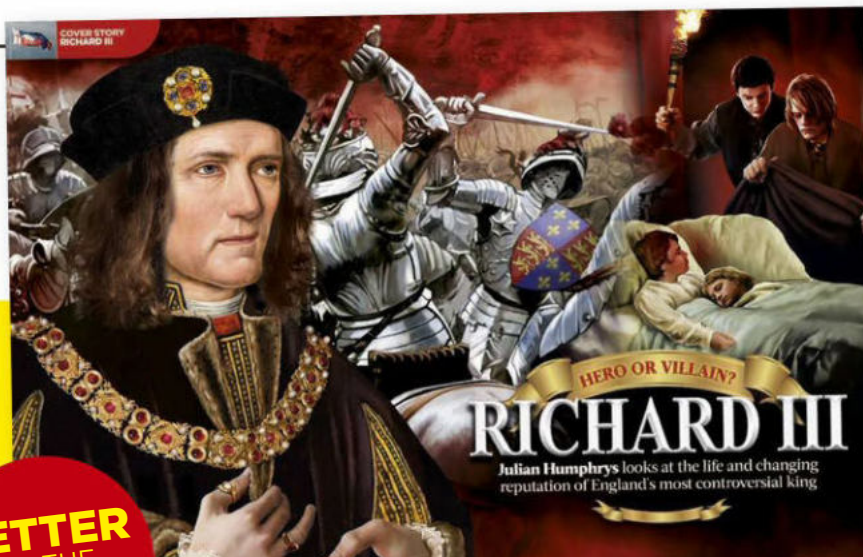
I don't think that makes him a terrible person, or even a bad king. One has to think about the historical context surrounding this event. It seems very likely that if Richard had been well-behaved and played ball, his embittered sister-in-law Elizabeth Woodville and the rest of their family

**"I think that it is likely the poor young princes died as a result of Richard's direct actions"**

think that it is likely that the poor young 'princes in the tower' probably died either as a result of Richard's direct actions – or possibly his negligent inactions. However,

would have got rid of him, and may even have taken the throne for themselves.

The ongoing Wars of the Roses had recently resulted in the deaths of other monarchs



LETTER  
OF THE  
MONTH

### A KINGDOM DIVIDED

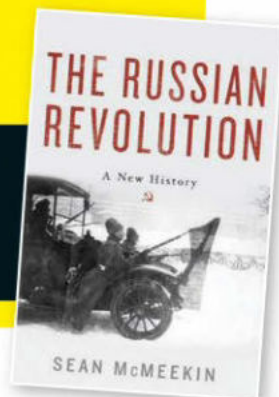
Our feature on Richard III sparked much debate among our readers

and potential kings, so nothing was straightforward. I think that the reason for Richard III's divisiveness and controversy mainly comes from trying to paint a simplistic picture of

'good and evil' characters in an otherwise ambiguous time in history.

Jennifer Shelden,  
via email

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, Jennifer! You've won a copy of *The Russian Revolution: A New History* by Sean McMeekin. On its 100th anniversary, this riveting book traces the events which ended Romanov rule, ushered the Bolsheviks into power, and introduced Communism to the world.



**f** The 50 greatest mysteries insert was brilliant. I love a good conspiracy theory, and the ones raised in the article will stimulate many a post-pub debate. Gabby Cancellio

### DIG UP THE DEAD

Some recent history news states that notorious Chicago serial killer H H Holmes is to

be exhumed by relatives, to disprove the (in my opinion), silly theory that he escaped the hangman and lived the high life in South America, like every villain and Nazi before him. Has every bad guy from history fled into that southern continent's sunset? Of course, a movie starring Leonardo di Caprio is

in production, so maybe this gruesome grave digging will drum up attention for that. With so many unanswered questions on America's first serial killer, I admit to being interested in uncovering further information on this twisted individual, but see this exhumation as nothing more than a publicity stunt for coming media attractions. Maybe a future issue will help fill in the blanks of the monster of the Chicago Fair 1893.

Matthew Wilson,  
Wolverhampton

### UNFAIR ACCUSATION

In his interesting article on Billy the Kid (April 2017), writer Jonny Wilkes says that Billy

can hardly be described as merciless and immoral when compared to other Western gunmen such as Jesse James, Butch Cassidy and John Wesley Hardin. James was certainly ruthless, particularly towards anyone who fought for the Union during the Civil War, and Hardin once shot to death a man who disturbed his rest by snoring. But Butch does not deserve to be listed with such ready killers.

He was in fact known as a 'gentleman bandit', and once swore to his father that he had never killed a man. Butch admitted that some members of his Wild Bunch were a bit trigger-happy at times, but always maintained that he had never personally taken the life of another man.

Joe Darby, Louisiana

### BILLY THE BULLY?

Billy probably doesn't deserve his reputation, but neither, argues one reader, does Butch





Love this magazine!  
@Carrie\_Bath

## DIET OF TAPEWORMS

I had a good chuckle about your 'fad diets' top ten (June 2017), and was totally grossed out by some of them! It's interesting to see that celebrities from the past are no different to those today. I must say I have been tempted to try the grapefruit diet, as it seems like the least harmful on the list. But I don't actually like it very much.

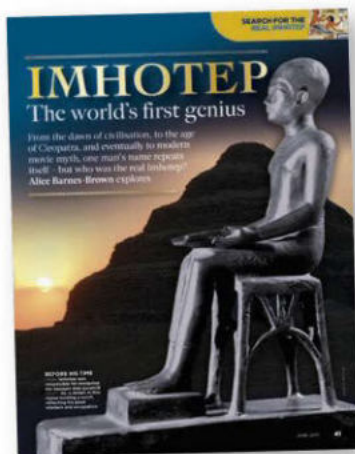
Susan Taylor, Australia

## THE SEARCH CONTINUES

During my 1967 visit to Egypt, I took a trip to Saqqara, which coincided with the late Professor W B Emery's digs in the area. It had been Professor Emery's life's work to locate the tomb of Imhotep (June 2017), and he theorised that it must be in the area of the Step Pyramid.

One of his more senior students mentioned to me that there was potentially some circumstantial evidence that the mysterious South Tomb, as part of the Step Pyramid enclosure, may have been the intended tomb of Imhotep. I never again visited the site and have never heard or read any more about this. It'd be great to know if there has been any more published information about his final resting place.

James Wells, via email



**LOST MUMMY**  
Might Imhotep be buried at the Step Pyramid of Djoser?



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From vinegar to cabbage soup, our pick of the most stomach-churning fad diets from history went down a treat

## PANTS ON FIRE

Casanova (Extraordinary Tale, June 2017) – what a guy! I knew his name was synonymous with seduction, but had no idea he got up to so much in his turbulent life. Was he really a prankster, soldier, opera pianist and escaped prisoner? It sounds too good to be true...

John Collins, Warwickshire

## TRIPLE AGENTS

Operation Pastorius (Nazis in New York, June 2017) was, in my opinion, one of the most fascinating aspects of World War II. It's interesting that the Nazis were willing to trust two men whose loyalty could easily be called into question – Dasch, a naturalised American citizen, and Burger, an open critic of the Gestapo – especially considering

that they were usually so thorough. It would surely make for a good blockbuster movie.

Mark King, New York

In your article on the 1841 census (Graphic History, June 2017), you state that many Irish records from that period have not survived due to official incompetence and fire. This is true but what is also true is that many were destroyed by order of the government during WWI due to a demand for pulped paper. No such orders were given in England, Scotland or Wales.

Sean McKinney

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 42 are:  
**J Sandiford**, Slough  
**Stephen Klopp**, Croydon  
**R Beckett**, London

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of **Out of China** by Robert Bickers, worth £30. This wonderful book tracks the country's journey from Western domination to the superpower that it is today,

## CORRECTIONS

• In our '50 Greatest Discoveries' pull-out mag, included in issue 41, we said that #9's proto-human Lucy was 3,500 million years old. Of course, we meant 3.5 million years. Thanks to Peter Moss for pointing this error out.

## GET IN TOUCH

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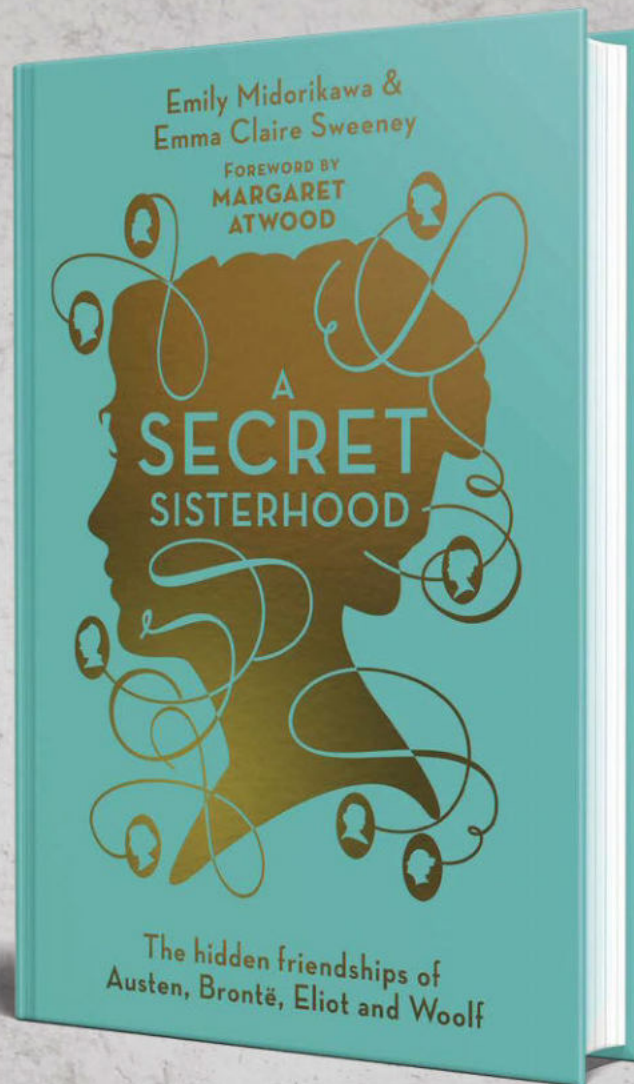
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